

# Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012



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# Vision, Mission, Core Values and Core Purpose

#### **Our 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.

#### **Our Mission**

**Y**UVA will empower the oppressed and the marginalized by facilitating their organisations and institutions towards building equal partnerships in the development process, ensuring the fulfillment 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.

#### **Our Core Values**

VUVA is committed to certain fundamental principles of development, which YUVA considers as its core values. These core values are:

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

All of YUVA's involvement is based on these five core values, which YUVA considers as non-negotiable in nature.

#### **Our Core Purpose**

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

# **About YUVA**

The birth of Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA), a voluntary development organisation, in the year 1984 marked the beginning of a journey of empowering the oppressed and marginalised in urban areas, and later in rural areas.

Since 1984, YUVA has questioned social structures along the side of the poor, with the aim of empowering them to participate in a process of meaningful change. At the heart of YUVA's mission lies the conviction that the collective destinies of the human race are bound together. For a genuine, sustainable and lasting social system, sharp differences in income and opportunities must give way to a more equitable distribution. Thus, YUVA has focused on creating access and enabling processes to a gamut of rights and opportunities within the human rights framework for the marginalised and vulnerable sections of the society.



YUVA's engagements of the last twenty seven years are derived

from the **Paradigm of Human Rights**. The foundation of engagement lies in defending, promoting, restoring and creating the civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights of the poor, at the levels of both the individual and the collective. The scope of our intervention spans the relationship between the three fundamental and interrelated themes of Poverty, Environment and Governance.

YUVA's interventions can thus be read within the frame of: Poverty is seen as a violation of human rights with recognition that it is structural and that there are social causes that create and perpetuate the impoverishment of communities and specific groups. The theme of environment focuses on issues of quality, equity and sustainability in relation to the development and management of natural resources and infrastructure. Work on governance centers around facilitation of the democratization of power and decentralized access to and management of public resources.

YUVA follows a strategy of balancing its work of securing rights with building assets for the poor. This has been labeled as the **People's Organization-People's Institution (PO-PI) model**. YUVA believes that these organizations and institutions are vital mechanisms to enable people to negotiate with the state and market, the two overarching forces in today's political economy. YUVA believes that people's institutions are needed to protect existing assets, enhance assets by making them more productive, and create new assets; people's organizations are needed to protect existing rights, expand existing rights, and create new rights.

#### **Eleven Levels of Intervention**

**V**UVA believes that the process of social change has to be composite while seeking to deal with the root causes of inequity. YUVA has identified eleven levels of engagement which ensure a composite, multipronged approach towards the development agenda.

These eleven levels of engagement provide a significant focus to YUVA's work in urban and rural areas. These are essentially an indication of the nature of roles that a development organization must play in its role as a catalyst, enabler and advocate for addressing concerns of the poor and achieving socially relevant objectives.

The following are YUVA's eleven levels of intervention:

- To build organizations for direct action
- To conduct popular education for building awareness
- To undertake conscientisation through training processes
- To ensure access to basic human rights such as education, health, nutrition, water and energy

- To engage in experiments towards sustainable and people-centered alternatives
- To conduct research aimed at formulating and influencing policy
- To engage in advocacy and lobbying activity aimed at participatory governance
- To undertake documentation and strategic information dissemination in the promotion of the right to information
- To participate in initiating and building networks and alliances for social transformation
- To undertake support and consultancy work aimed at capacity building of people's organisations and grassroots groups
- To engage in solidarity action, nationally and internationally to highlight people's causes

#### **YUVA Units**

Since 2001, YUVA's work has been organized into distinct areas of operation through the creation of four interlinked units. These are YUVA Urban, YUVA Rural, YUVA Consulting and YUVA Central. These formations have been developed as units with different programmes and functions, staff, management and governance bodies. The mandate of each unit has been outlined as follows:



#### YUVA Central

YUVA Central has the mandate of i) ideology and value building within YUVA; ii) vision building; iii) strategizing for YUVA as a whole; and iv) synergy building across YUVA units and setting up of common financial, human resource, organizational development, and programme systems across all units.

#### YUVA Rural

YUVA Rural strives to create self-sustainable rural societies where there is no discrimination on the grounds of gender, caste, creed, class or religion. The focus of YUVA Rural's intervention is on three intertwined areas of Natural Resource Management and Livelihood; Gender and other forms of Social Discrimination; and Governance and Human Rights.

#### YUVA Urban

YUVA Urban strives to create cities that are just, equitable and sustainable. It works to make cities a better place to live in, which ensures that its citizens, particularly the poor, lead a quality of life in keeping with universal human rights that all individuals and communities are entitled to.

#### YUVA Consulting

YUVA Consulting is a professional consultancy unit continuously innovating solutions, models, and approaches towards humane social development while being rooted in YUVA's values, ethics and culture. It is seen as a vehicle to scale up YUVA's approach, strategies and values in the development sector. However, due to lack of human resources, activities for this year have been put on hold.

# **Message from the President**

t is with pleasure that I present the YUVA Annual Report for 2011-2012.

<sup>•</sup> The last year has seen YUVA's programmes across the three entities of YUVA Urban, YUVA Rural and YUVA Centre being consolidated.

In YUVA Rural, activities to enhance people's livelihoods through natural resource management continued. A producers' company that will procure *tur dal* directly from the farmers, process it in a Dal mill and sell to consumers, has been set up. Many farmers adopting organic farming practices have procured the requisite certification. Strengthening the Mahila Vikas Parishad, facilitating people to access government schemes, mobilising youth for engaging in activities for their and the community's empowerment, have also been undertaken.

The Migrant Resource Centre set up by YUVA Urban has emerged as the organising point for all our interventions related to the issue of migrants. Our attempt to revision urban spaces to protect the rights of the poor saw advocacy efforts on Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY), building our own knowledge and critique on the Mumbai Development Plan and creating awareness about the Plan among urban poor communities. The safe water and sanitation campaign (Paani haq Abhiyan) and work with specific population groups facing unique vulnerabilities such as women and children has been consolidated.

YUVA Centre has organised a series of training programmes on strengthening the financial management and systems of voluntary organisations. In response to specific needs expressed by other groups, the Central Finance department of YUVA has been periodically organising training on the implications of the amendments to the FCRA Acts. The Information and Resource Centre, in addition to its archival functions, has produced video magazines on community issues and organised workshops for folk media and street play artists. Due to the lack of requisite leadership and personnel, work in YUVA Consulting and CYBC has been a bit slow.

YUVA's programmes and institutional processes are further detailed in the following pages. We hope this would help you glimpse the work of the organisation. We welcome your feedback.



Kavitha Krishnamoorthy President, YUVA October, 2012

# YUVA Units—YUVA Rural

# Introduction

Since YUVA started its work in Mumbai in 1984, the organisation has seen the need to expand its mandate in response to the growing concerns and experience with the vulnerable and marginalised sections. The work with the urban poor in Mumbai clearly showed that the roots of their condition were related to the inequity and economic security in the rural context. This strengthened our belief that the issues and conditions affecting the poor were complexly and inextricably bound together, whether in the rural or urban situation.

As a result, YUVA Rural was established in 1994. Since its inception, YUVA Rural has been undertaking strategic interventions in issues related to livelihood, natural resource management, gender, social discrimination, governance and human rights in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

YUVA Rural has project offices in four districts—Akola, Bhandara, Buldhana and Wardha—and currently has its head office in Nagpur. YUVA Rural is implementing projects in 11 districts of Vidarbha through a strong and dedicated staff of 20 members and a large number of volunteers. Apart from this, it is also in collaboration with a large number of civil society organisations and people's organisations working for the benefit of YUVA Rural's prime constituency, the rural poor.

The Rural unit undertakes activities such as awareness building sessions, trainings, demonstrations, advocacy, research, policy analysis and networking. The key areas of intervention which form the basis of the work of YUVA Rural are:

- A. Natural Resource Management and Livelihoods
- B. Gender and other forms of Social Discrimination
- C. Responsive Governance towards Human Rights

# A. Natural Resource Management and Livelihoods

**N** atural resource has been the lifeline for millions of the population living in rural areas. Despite the boom in the services sector in urban cities, natural resource-based livelihood activities and agriculture remain to be the main economy of India. The same is true in rural regions of Vidharbha. However, despite the sector's contribution to national economic growth and food sustainability, subsistence farmers and tribals living in forest areas continue to be economically marginalised. The last decade bore witness to Vidharbha region's distressing phenomenon of large number of suicides, believed to be caused by distress from their state of poverty, among farmers and rural folk.

In response to these issues, YUVA Rural has identified natural resource management and livelihood as one of its key interventions throughout Vidharbha. Interventions were made to ensure that the people work-



Meeting in Wardha on Income Generating Activities that could be undertaken by farmers

ing with natural resources are benefitted by national development. YUVA Rural has been conducting three projects and initiatives for its intervention among farmers, tribals and youth: i) Promoting Agro-Produce Marketing and Convergence of Agriculture Interventions for Increase of Family Income of Distressed Farmers Community; ii) Integrated Sustainable Agriculture Programme; iii) and Promoting Tribal Communities.

# i. Promoting Agro-Produce Marketing and Convergence of Agriculture Interventions for Increase of Family Income of Distressed Farmers Community

art of the work on Natural Resource Management and Livelihoods is a project being implemented in six (6) villages of Devli Taluka in the Wardha district of Vidharbha. This three-year intervention (January 2010)

to December 2012) has three objectives: 1) facilitate the selected families to link with market for better prices for their produce; 2) involve the families in primary processing and value-addition to increase the value of their produce; and 3) facilitate convergence of all available schemes of the Government through agriculture department and rural development department towards farming sustainability and increasing family income.

The project's direct beneficiaries are 20 distressed families with small landholdings. The families and villages will serve as models for replication initiatives by villagers, organisations and government in other families and villages experiencing the same distressful situation. Indirect impact of the project can also be seen among few landless families and some medium-scale farmers.

#### Activities

**S** everal activities have been undertaken for this year's project implementation. These include Education and Awareness activities, formation of Joint Liability Groups (JLGs), Producer Companies, Sale and Purchase of selected agricultural crops, Kharib and Rabi Crop Planning, Convergence Scheme for Vidharbha package for Kharif, Agro-allied Activities and Revolving Funds, Hor-



Farmer-family benefitted by the Government Scheme providing Milch Animals for Households (Wardha)

ticultural Development Programme, Vegetable and Organic Farming, Convergence *Melawas*, and accessing several government schemes—Household Scheme, Pension Scheme, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj Farmers Empowerment Scheme, and Irrigation Schemes.

#### Outcomes

The various activities resulted in different outcomes for different sets or groups among the beneficiaries. Some of the activities were meant to raise the awareness of the target beneficiaries regarding the government schemes available and how these can be accessed. Other schemes implemented linked the farmers with appropriate government offices to actually get the benefits from the schemes. Activities relating to agricultural schemes and agro-allied activities were usually composed of access to schemes and benefits coupled with skill development and upgrading for sustainability of improvements in livelihood.

While some schemes are short-term in nature with fast results, such as MGNREGS, some schemes like the Irrigation Schemes and Agro-Allied activities are more long-term. A total of 705 farmers in 1325 hectares of land were benefited through the National Watershed Development Programme. The Jawahar and Jal Purti Yojna schemes were accessed by 25 farmers who received a total sum of Rs. 1,95,000. Agro-allied activities likewise take time to reap the benefits but if sustained, can lead to a sustained income for the long-term. The villagers (17) who engaged in dairy units are getting additional income of Rs. 1,500 to 1,700 per month while those who undertook goat-rearing units (36 units by individuals and three by women self-help groups or SHGs) earn an additional Rs. 8,000 to 11,000 every six months. Villagers (3) whose proposal for fisheries was approved are increasing their income by Rs. 20,000 per quarter. Some villagers involved in the revolving fund activities are each getting an average of Rs. 150 daily increase in income for dairy units (6) and of Rs. 10,500 every six months for goat-rearing units (4).

As for the convergence of other government schemes, the outcomes have benefitted not just individuals but also families and households. The benefits received from the converged schemes are as follows:

Table 1: Summary of benefits under select converged schemes				
Calescore	Total Direct Beneficiaries			
Scheme	Individuals	Families	Converged amount	
Horticulture Development Programme				
Amla	15		4,95,000 (33,000 per person)	
Lemon and Pomegranate		2	7,00,000 (3,50,000 per family)	
Vidharbha Package for Kharif	1229		8,11,140 (660 per person)	
MGNREGS				
Well	128		5,76,000-6,40,000 for labor (4500-5000 per person)	
Pandan Roads	48		1,68,000 for labor (3500 per person)	
Household Scheme		63	72,45,000 (1,15,000 per house)	
TOTAL	1420	65	99,95,000-1,00,59,000	

# ii. Integrated Sustainable Agriculture Program (INSAP)

A nother component contributing to the achievement of objectives for the Natural Resource Management and Livelihoods thematic area is a project that YUVA has been implementing in its fifth phase. INSAP is being implemented to promote ecological farming, obtain organic certification, and continue women's land right campaigns in a self-reliant mode by the existing people's institutions. In addition, this two-year phase expects the farmers to increase their income by establishing a Dal mill and trading their agro produce with other people's institutions in SWISSAID partner projects.

There are now 500 farmers who have adapted ecological farming. In addition, more than 500 women have claimed their land and property rights. A producers company has also been formed, a Dal mill was established, and agro-produce trading is initiated. As a result, the income level of farmers participating in Dal mill, trading activities and other project activities, have increased between 5% to 10%.

# **Activities and Outcomes**

Various activities such as Support to Sales Purchase Depot, Set-up of Dal mill, Set-up of Producers Company (PC), Brand Development of

Agro-Produce, and Capacity Building which included Exposure Visits, Workshops, and Skills Development Trainings were initiated.

For the Support to Sales Purchase Depot, 13 depot managers were identified and finalised for procurement and operation. Financial assistance was also provided to 10 depot managers to scale up their operations. Capacity building in terms of quality assurance and marketing were also conducted among depot managers. The marketing network is being established through individual contacts. On the operations side, 2600 quintal of soya bean was purchased and sold with a turnover of Rs. 49,40,000. The soya bean procurement provided a 7% additional income to farmers.

The Producers Company was already setup with all the legal compliances fulfilled. There are a total of 260 farmershareholders until 6 March 2012. The PC has also participated in exhibitions at Nagpur and Mumbai to promote their company. The dal mill is also operational. Tur was purchased directly from the farmers which allowed them to be able to save Rs. 120 each for the transportation cost that would have been incurred if they sold their produce at the market. A total of 75 quintals of tur was procured for processing amounting to Rs.2,50,000. From this, 64 quintals of tur has been processed, packed and is ready for sale.

In terms of organic farming and certification, 3000 out of 6400 farmers obtained C-3 certificate from National Organic Certification Agency (NOCA) in the previous year. In addition, 576 farmers have been certified by the Participatory Guarantee Scheme/Non-Pesticide Management India campaign in Washim and Akola. Through capacity building activities, farmers are becoming more aware of the importance and benefits of organic farming.

# **Major Challenges and Countermeasures**

#### Internal Challenges

- Inadequate technical capability of person-in-charge for the dal processing unit
- Insufficient fund for working capital

#### External:

- Price fluctuation of raw materials and losses from prevailing price of products
- Multiple processors resulting to stiff competition in terms of pricing and quality
- Motivation, temperament, and attitudes of farmers to pursue sustainable agriculture are greatly affected by economic, social, political and environmental factors
- Effects of greenhouse gases, irregular rain, and erratic climatic conditions result in crop failure and economic losses

#### Countermeasures:

- Technical training of person-in-charge
- Develop business relationships with other NGOs, SHGs, retailers and hotels to trade finished products at a faster pace
- Adopt more holistic strategies to develop the brand and stand out among market competition
- Establish strong linkages with financial institutions to support operations
- Appointment of advocate to address legal challenges and issues, especially for women's land rights
- One extension staff per district to continue the soft processes such as sustainable agriculture practices, rejection of GMOs, facilitating the SSKP and certification process, and linking the farmers with government schemes

Vermicomposting unit

There were 276 farmers who have agreed to produce organically and 162 of them have rejected GMOs. Introduction of Ambadi as a supplementary crop for income augmentation was also done among 200 farmers.

INSAP also facilitated the identification and access of benefits through government schemes for 988 farmers. Moreover, entitlement of assets for 189 women were achieved this year. Of this number, agricultural land entitlements were given for 59 women while 130 women received house entitlements.

#### **Lessons Learnt**

rom the implementation of the activities and the challenges encountered, several lessons have been learnt which can be considered in the future planning of activities or other projects which include:

- a. Active involvement of the project facilitator and Shaswat Sheti Kruti Parishad (SSKP) members, on voluntary basis, is supposed to keep the process of sustainable agriculture alive. However, achieving the desired level of self-sustainability remains difficult even at this time.
- b. The differences in the operational aspects of marketing and NGO are challenges that implementers need to adapt to. The legal framework of NGOs does not allow such initiatives, even if these are transparent.
- c. In the new trend of "MEGA" companies, transforming the farmers' generations-old perspective of being producers rather than entrepreneurs and operate a small company, is a rather difficult task.

### iii. Promoting Sustainable Livelihood of Tribal Communities (PTC)

A nother main focus for natural resources management and livelihood thematic area is on the marginalisation among tribal communities, especially those living near or in forested areas. The PTC has four objectives: 1) to ensure the access to and control over the natural resources of tribal communities as the source for their just livelihood; 2) to demonstrate better NRM-based livelihood options and allied activities to increase family income of tribal communities including women; 3) to facilitate the empowerment process towards the equal rights of tribal communities, including women's rights and their social inclusion; and 4) to promote the convergence of different government schemes and programs towards effective results.

#### Activities

F or this year, activities conducted to achieve these objectives include Education and Awareness camps on Acts such as Forests Rights Act (FRA) and Bio-Diversity Act (BDA), Workshop for Sarpanch, Talathi, Gramsevak and Forests Rights Committees (FRC) on the FRA, Individual Rights



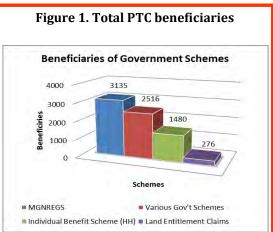
Bamboo Mat-making Unit as part of the livelihood activities

and Community Forest Rights (CFR), Capacity Building of Youth and Women Leaders on Rights Based Approach, Capacity Building for Defining the Roles and Responsibilities of the Bio-Diversity Management Committee (BMC), Capacity building of the People's Organisations and People's Institutions, Workshop on Gender for Key Holders of the Village, Advocacy and Lobbying with Authorities, District Level Convergence Workshops, and Vidharbha Livelihood Forum Meeting.

In addition to these activities for the beneficiary tribal communities, the Project Team also conducted common activities such as Monthly and Quarterly Review and Planning Team Meetings, and Team Capacity Building activities through Project Orientation and a workshop on Advocacy Strategy Planning.

#### Outcomes

Through these activities, the beneficiaries were able to access several government schemes as well as submit claims on land entitlement. A total of 2516 families benefitted from government schemes while facilitation was provided to 1480 households to get individual benefit schemes. A total of 3135 people were also able to



work through the MGNREGS. Moreover, out of the 1376 individual claims submitted, 276 individual claims for 1904.88 hectares of land entitlement have already been sanctioned.

Activities on the promotion of participation in decision-making processes resulted in 31 village development plans that were prepared by the *Gram Panchayats* and submitted to the Block Development Officer (BDO) for approval. Advocacy on CFR issues were also done with local MLAs, District Collectors, SDO, and *Taluka* officer.

Through the awareness generated amongst people regarding FRA, more and more people are coming forward to protect their forests and bio-diversity. There were 54 CFR submitted while 31 JFM and 31 FRA committees have evolved. A total of seven (7) SHG Federations were also formed while six (6) Mahua banks are in process.

# B. Gender and other forms of Social Discrimination

The Indian Constitution declares that everybody—regardless of sex, caste, religion, and economic, political and social status—should get equal opportunities, status and rights. However, it is a sad reality that gender and other forms of social discrimination remain prevalent in the patriarchal Indian society. Women and girl children, in particular, are subjected to sex discrimination and at many times are denied of their fundamental human rights.

YUVA Rural's approach to address the issue of gender and other forms of social discrimination is the advocacy on gender mainstreaming, a process to achieve greater gender equality and overcome the costs of women's marginalisation. Empowerment of women—through greater participation in decision-making, attending to their self-esteem and well-being, and building their economic, social, cultural and political capacities—is a main agenda in the initiatives of YUVA Rural. The unit is committed to creating a society that empowers women as equal partners and ensures the promotion and fulfilment of their fundamental human rights.

Under this thematic area, three main projects are being undertaken by YUVA Rural: i) Women's Empowerment through Women's Organisation (WEWO) and ii) We Can End All Violence Against Women (We Can); and iii) Combating HIV/AIDS through Community Engagement. In addition, a separate workshop on women and land rights has also been held.

#### i. Women's Empowerment through Women's Organisation (WEWO)

Addressing gender discrimination has always been included in YUVA Rural's prrogrammes. WEWO has four aims: a) strengthening and institutional building of MVP as a women's organisation with political visibility; b) political empowerment of women members of MVP; c) promotion of policies, practices, ideas and beliefs that create equal gender relationship; and d) reduction of gender-based discrimination and violence in all forms.

#### Activities

To achieve these aims, three objectives were set with outcomes and indicators to show the progress of WEWO's implementation. Throughout the year, several activities have been undertaken by WEWO corresponding to its objectives. The pro-



Women protesting for the acceptance and lodging of a case on domestic violence

ject implementers have been facilitating these activities in the five districts of Vidharbha—Bhandara, Wardha, Akola, Amravati and Nagpur—to spread the impacts of WEWO. The three objectives and activities undertaken are found in Table 2.

In addition to these activities and as part of project monitoring, a staff team meeting was held every month. The agenda for the monthly staff meeting is to review the previous month's activities and plan for the next month. Topics and issues such as objectives, profile of beneficiaries, outcome and indicators were discussed in length for clear understanding. In correspondence with the objectives, several indicators have been put in place to measure the status of activities and evaluate the achievement of WEWO's objectives. Achievements are usually gauged through the membership to the *Mahila Vikas Parishad*, the number of MVP core leaders who received trainings, the benefits from various schemes received by women in the coverage area, and the level of participation of the beneficiaries in the decision-making processes and their involvement in government units, among others.

Table 2: WEWO objectives and activities undertaken			
Objectives	Activities		
<b>Objective 1:</b> Consolidation of Insti- tutional Building Process of MVP	<ul> <li>District level capacity building workshop for core MVP members</li> <li>Taluka level capacity building workshop for core MVP members</li> <li>Motivation encouragement and visibility</li> <li>Regular meetings at regional, district and taluka level</li> <li>Political Engagement (engagement of MVP core group with governance at district and Taluka Level)</li> </ul>		
<b>Objective 2:</b> Creation of gender- sensitised community to facilitate positive strategic changes leading to gender equity and women's po- litical empowerment	<ul> <li>Gender awareness campaign at village level</li> <li>Taluka level orientations</li> <li>Gender sensitisation workshops</li> <li>Model gender-sensitive village</li> <li>District level Melawa on democracy and governance</li> <li>Capacity building workshops for PRI (Panchayat Raj Institution) representatives (women)</li> <li>Leadership training for potential members</li> <li>Formation of Village Mahila Samitis</li> <li>Organisation of Women's Gramsabha</li> </ul>		
<b>Objective 3:</b> Development of insti- tutional support mechanism for the change process wherein number of marginalised women live their life free of discrimination and violence	<ul> <li>Training of barefoot counsellors</li> <li>Policy advocacy</li> <li>Study on formal and informal systems dealing with VAW</li> <li>Establishment of district women resource centre</li> <li>Provision of counselling services</li> </ul>		

#### Outcomes

Through the conduct of these activities, several achievements have been attained for this year. There are 9600 more members of MVP registered in 31 *taluka*, 1550 villages in five districts. There are 7200 members from *dalit, adivasi* and Muslim communities. There were also 260 MVP leaders who stood for local elections at PRI and *Panchayat* level. Out of these, 127 leaders won the elections. In addition, 355 MVP members are part of various government committees such as Conflict Resolution Committee, *Dakshata Samitis*, Executive Magistrates, and Below Poverty Line survey *samiti*, among others. MVP members also took the initiative to work on the issue of female foeticide and gave memoranda to the Collectors of all five districts for the proper implementation of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act. Moreover, MVP members also advocated towards no change in the IPC-498A. They advocated for the Act to remain cognisable and non-compoundable. A documentary film, entitled 'Chaitanyachya Paul Khuna' (Footprints towards Women's Empowerment), was also made on the three success stories of MVP members on social, political and economic issues.

There are already 10 villages developed as Gender-sensitive Model Villages. Some of the criteria include balanced sex ratio, women entitlements, girl child education, low instances of VAW, and women's participation in political forums. There also 1350 villages that have Village Mahila Samitis that are handling local issues of women and encouraging them to participate in the Gram Sabhas and conducting Mahila Aamsabhas. MVP members also initiated a total of 1025 villages to conduct Mahila Gramsabhas on 26 January 2012.

A research study was also undertaken on the formal and informal institutions available for addressing the issues of VAW in the five districts. There are 178 pressure groups created which are working actively on the advocacy issues of MGNREGS, DV Act 2005, rationing, Health issues, gender and violence against women. A total of 17425 cases of VAW were handled while 35 child marriages were stopped by MVP. There are 168 barefoot counsellors and paralegals trained.

Facilitation of government schemes were also undertaken through the project. A total of 2364 women were benefited under various government schemes like the Indira Awas Yojana, Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana, Job cards, Joint registration of house and property, and Janani Suraksha Yojana, among others. A total of 3250 women received work under MGNREGS while 2165 women started new income generating activities.

# WEWO Case Story: Self-Independence and Confidence

Gita, 40, was born in a poor family in Paras village of Balapur block in Akola district. Her family managed to send her to school and she completed her 10th standard. She was then married off at a young age.

All was well for two years and Gita's married life was going smoothly. Suddenly her husband left her and went away without any explanations. To this date, Gita does not know his whereabouts. After he left, Gita went back to stay with her parents and siblings –three sisters and one brother. Gita felt as if she was burdening her parents with her worries and was filled with guilt. To worsen things for her, villagers and relatives were blaming her for her husband's actions and were very open about their opinions. All these – poverty, people's perceptions, their comments, the trouble her parents were going through and her situation caused her a lot of distress.

It was during this time that Gita came to know of the Mahila Vikas Parishad (MVP). She registered, became a member and started attending workshops organized by MVP. Through the various programmes and activities, Gita became aware of the various issues related to women. Her involvement made her realise her rights as a woman and a member of the society. Gita started working as an anganwadi worker and became financially independent.

Gita currently is working as the MVP secretary for Balapur block. She solves issues and cases related to women with care and commitment. She has become confident and attends workshops in Mumbai, Delhi, Nagpur and other places. Through the MVP participation, Gita has become self-independent and is working towards her social and economic development.

# ii. We Can End All Violence Against Women (We Can)

The South Asian Campaign against violence against women, "We Can End All Violence Against Women" or "We Can", is being anchored by YUVA in the state of Maharashtra. A total of 33 districts with 150 blocks and 6000 villages are covered under the We Can campaign.

The State-level campaign is working on reducing violence against women through attitudinal changes amongst people as change makers. The main objective is fundamental shift in social attitudes and beliefs, collective and visible stand on violence against women and institutionalisation of the change.

#### Activities

The central force of the campaign are the Change Makers—people who pledge to not perpetuate or support violence and actively strive to influence others to take a similar path. For 2010-2011, the focus was on "deepening and institutionalising change" among the Change Makers (CM) already associated with the campaign. For this year, apart from deepening the change, another strategy is focused on institutionalisation of the change.

Activities for the implementation of these two strategies include: meetings with volunteers, with alliance partners, state-level alliance meeting, and national level alliance meeting; updating of change makers' data; orientations for volunteers and district alliance members; and interactions with volunteers and educational institutions.

#### Outcomes

As result of the activities undertaken, there are now more than 2,10,000 Change Makers in the state across the coverage area. These CMs form 1,896 clusters of 50-60 CMs each. The cadre of 146 volunteers working with the campaign interact with the CMs in the clusters. A total of 3792 small events were conducted to interact with the CMs. There were also 25 volunteers from Maharashtra who participated in the two-day National Volunteers Assembly at Ahmedabad in February 2012.

In addition, as part of its institutionalisation strategy, the campaign now has 455 diverse alliance partners and 1650 educational institutions have become involved. Of which, 780 educational institutions made commendable changes and were given certificates of recognition as gender-sensitive institutions. The Municipal council of Sawantwadi, Ganeshpur was also institutionalised under the We Can campaign.

This year, the message of VAW has gone beyond domestic violence and issues of violence against women based on caste, religion, occupation etc. have been handled by the CMs. Furthermore, monitoring of activities and information dissemination were also intensified. A reporting tool for the ease of cluster-wise reporting by volunteers was put in place while another tool for reporting by educational institutions have been developed. IEC material

such as certificates, posters, diaries etc. were created and distributed amongst volunteers, partners and alliance members. Voice Tree, a telephonic service for online information on the We Can campaign, has been started. This is available in Marathi language for Maharashtra state.

# ii. Combating HIV/AIDS through Community Engagement

**C**reating awareness to encourage participation has been a powerful platform for conducting YUVA Rural activities. Through a partnership program between YUVA Rural and SWISSAID, a project aims to engage young men in tackling gender issues. The project's efforts were especially directed to promote gender equality, prevent HIV/AIDS, help HIV/AIDS affected people (especially women) to access their rights to medical treatment, shelter and care, and stop violence and abuse of women (particularly HIV/AIDS affected women). Commonly referred to as Men's Engagement in Gender, this is being implemented in three districts in Maharashtra—Nagpur, Buldhana and Bhandara.

#### **Activities and Outcomes**

A ctivities under the project included district level meetings of stakeholders and civil society organisations, Taluka level district youth orientation, and production of information, education and communication (IEC) materials.

Four (4) district level meetings were planned and held in Nagpur and Bhandara districts. Various stakeholders, alliance members and civil society organisations were invited to attend the district level meeting. Overall, 25 district level partners and alliance members were contacted and 127 stakeholders have actively participated. The participants were from MAVIM, Women and Child Development Department, Integrated Child Development Scheme Department, Nehru Yuva Kendra, NSS Office, CBO/NGO members, Police Department, Community Care Centres, Counselling Centres, academicians, law officers, Panchayat Raj Institution (PRI) members, SHG members, and service providers.

During the meetings, the idea of incorporating the component of gender equality and issues related to HIV-AIDS in to their work was shared. In addition, the planning of promoting men's involvement in gender was discussed. Strategies such as having consultations and orientation with youth, interaction with the husbands of SHG workers, men counselling men, and awareness generation programmes for men in the villages was adopted. The plan of action on implementation of these programmes in their field areas was prepared by each stakeholder. Follow up of these stakeholders was done and it was found that at least 25 stakeholders started to incorporate these issues in their work.

Moreover, in terms of the Taluka level two-day youth orientations, a total of 11 programmes were planned and implement-

# We Can Case Stories

# Sagre: Fighting for Rights

Sagre, a mother of two children, is a victim of domestic violence. Her husband Kailas was abusing and beating her regularly. She had all the books and materials of the We Can campaign. With the information, Sagre approached We Can volunteers and expressed her willingness to file a case in court. She received Rs. 80,000 as compensation. We Can volunteers also helped her to get employed. She has strongly appealed to other women to not be afraid and fight for their rights.

# Mr. Jagsih: Changing Attitudes and Perspectives

Mr. Jagsih Bhaisare is a lecturer in Late Nirdhanrao Waghaye Arts and Commerce College at Lakkhani Taluka in Bhandara district. He is also a journalist. As an alliance member, he took interest in the implementation of the campaign and developed his own perspective. Through which, he now thinks that women should be given due respect and due place in the family. For this, he brought about a change at his home and started helping his wife in her work. Also, in order to increase awareness of the We Can campaign, he encouraged the people in his institution and developed them into Change Makers.

He also contacted the NSS office, gave presentation on the campaign, and made new alliance members. Mr. Bhaisare also helped popularise the We Can campaign through media. He conducted institution camp for the youths. Through this camp, by sharing his own experiences and thoughts, Mr. Bhaisare managed to bring about attitudinal changes in all students of the camp and made them gender-sensitive. He has also written articles on the campaign and helped make people aware of the campaign to fight against every kind of violence against women.



Taluka-level convergence workshop

ed in four (4) Talukas of Bhandara (Bhandara, Lakhani, Sakoli, and Tumser); three (3) Talukas of Nagpur, Kuhi and Bhivapur; and three (3) Talukas of Buldhana. Youth participants were selected based on their interest, readiness to render voluntary time, and their level of gender perspective. Overall, 197 youth participants attended in three (3) trainings held in Lakhani, Sakoli, and Tumser talukas in Bhandara district. The training facilitation was done in collaboration with MAVA, an NGO engaging men on gender issues. During the training, the youth participants were sensitised on gender and HIV/AIDs-related issues. At the end of the training, the further follow-up plan of action was prepared. Follow-up meetings were held with the same youth participants in six (6) Talukas, along with review of their work done after the training. The youth were able to implement 43 awareness programs at the village level and a total of 68 new HIV-affected people have approached anti-retroviral therapy (ART) centres for medical treatment and rehabilitation.

As for the production of IEC materials, the project has developed and distributed posters, brochures and booklets. The posters and brochures were distributed during various events and activities. A booklet on HIV/AIDS FAQs was developed in collaboration with CYDA and Men Against Violence and Abuse (MAVA). The booklet was printed with 1000 copies. The materials were found to be effective by the stakeholders, especially in clarifying doubts of youth regarding HIV/AIDS. The youth were also able to arrange orientations and generate awareness through using the IEC materials.

#### iv. Workshop on Women and Land Rights

n addition to the projects, a separate state-level three-day training workshop was held on women's lands rights in Nagpur on 3-5 October. A total of 30 NGO partners from Maharashtra and Chhatisgarh participated in this training workshop.

In case of women's empowerment, their economic empowerment is very critical. For women to be economically empowered and independent, physical assets such as land are a must. Hence, the land rights for women are a critical issue for their overall development. To address this need, the workshop's basic objective focused on exploring the perspective and experiences of the stakeholders on the issues of women's land rights. Overall scenario and status of land on women's names were discussed and YUVA Rural's efforts on women's land rights and experiences were shared. Furthermore, an exposure visit to Jalka Patache was undertaken to show them live examples of land transfer on women's name and to share their experiences with the participants.

# Major Challenges, Countermeasures and Lessons Learnt

#### Internal Challenges

- Necessity for district level field staff to be trained and developed as trainers on technical issues of HIV/AIDS
- Selection of youth as volunteers to work voluntarily at the village level
- Sustaining the interest of youth volunteers to carry out the same work

#### External Challenges:

- Changing the perception of the people in the community on issues
- Bringing about attitudinal and behavioural changes among people in the community

#### Countermeasures:

- Overall orientation given to field staff before they get involved with gender issues, especially on HIV/AIDS
- Development of criteria for the selection of volunteers
- Development of strategies for the selection of stakeholders
- Raising people's awareness through the use of various audio-visual methods

#### Lessons Learnt:

- Regular follow-up and monitoring activities with volunteers contribute in sustaining their interest and motivation
- Production and distribution of IEC materials aid in achieving wider and better impact



A presentation during the 3-day training workshop in Nagpur

# C. Governance and Human Rights

**Y**UVA Rural has been working on raising awareness among the rural populace about their basic rights vis-à-vis the structures of local governance. While the laws and policies of the government are not against the poor, gaps and inadequacies in the implementation of these laws and access to schemes largely affect the delivery of services and benefits to the marginalised sectors. YUVA Rural has thus taken on the challenges and responsibilities in ensuring that the people are empowered to participate in the decision-making process for the issues affecting their own and their community's development.

Conscious and continuous efforts are also being undertaken by YUVA Rural to prompt the government to be more responsive to the needs of its constituency and to hold it accountable to its responsibility of ensuring the welfare of its people. YUVA Rural also promotes the wider participation of women and youth through providing them with adequate exposure and trainings in terms of understanding and resolving the issues they would have to confront.

Under this thematic area, YUVA Rural is facilitating and implementing two projects, namely: i) Anubhav Shiksha Kendra (ASK) and ii) Wada Na Todo Maha Abhiyan (WNTMA).

### i. Anubhav Shiksha Kendra (ASK)

The youth have immense potential to change the wave of development. However, in the absence of platforms and avenues where they can contribute to the process of social transformation, their potentials are underutilised. Moreover, in this juncture of their coming of age, there is a tendency for them to be misguided. As a result, their own growth comes to a stop and their contribution to the social developmental processes is also inhibited.

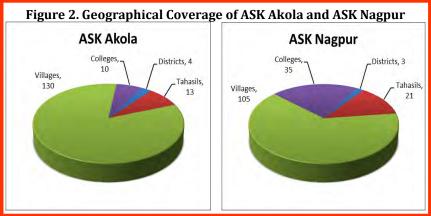
Hence, Anubhav Shiksha Kendra (ASK) has been making efforts to provide such a platform to these youth where they are nurtured and motivated to contribute as much as they can for the sustainable social transformation. The overall goal of the ASK program is "to prepare, and build capacities of the young people who are willing and capable, for social



Exposure and trainings provided to youth encourage leadership and participation

engagement or the process of social transformation." The pursuance of this goal is with the underlying philosophy that "Everyone is prone/ready to change if there is a nurturing environment and there is an opportunity to change". YUVA Rural implemented the ASK programme from April to September 2011 through two clusters: ASK Akola and ASK Nagpur.

ASK Akola covers four districts: Akola, Amravati, Budhana and Washim. The geographical coverage is shown in Figure 2. ASK Akola covers a total of 130 villages from 31 *tahasils* (blocks) of Akola, Amravati, Budhana and Washim. In terms of reaching out to youth with access to formal education institutions, the YUVA Rural ASK Akola cluster's outreach totals to 10 colleges. ASK Nagpur centers on Bhandara, Nagpur and Wardha, covering a total of 21 *tahasils* and 105 villages. The out-



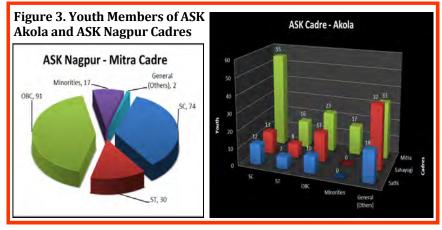
reach in terms of youth with access to formal education institutions totals to 35 covered colleges in these districts.

YUVA Rural's ASK Akola cluster programme implementation has also resulted in a higher number of membership among the cadres. These new members are further classified as those coming from the SC, ST, OBC, Minorities, and General groups. Meanwhile, ASK Nagpur cluster's programme implementation for this year has produced a total of 214 Mitras. These new Mitras are further classified as those coming from the SC, ST, OBC, Minorities, and General groups. Figure 3 shows the ASK Cadre members per category.

#### Activities and Outcomes

The ASK program focuses on three themes: livelihood, governance and sexuality. The broad programme interventions are Youth Motivation, Youth Exchange and Youth Forum Building.

The Youth Motivation programme intervention aims at making the youth aware of the aspects of governance and youth, environment, and gender. This is to develop their understanding and organise them for common issues. Under Youth



Motivation, activities are categorised under Orientation Programmes, Social Awareness, Youth Fairs (Melawas), and Capacity Building and Trainings.

Under the Orientation Programme, YUVA Rural planned and succeeded in organising campaigns for a total of 26 villages and colleges (10 for ASK Akola and 16 for ASK Nagpur). The campaigns had a total outreach of 7500, with ASK Akola's 4000 and ASK Nagpur's 3500 youths being oriented on the six core values of ASK (Democracy and Secularism, Gender Justice (Equity), Social Justice, Preservation of Environment (Ecological Justice), Honesty and Integrity, and Dignity of Labour). In addition, the campaign activity resulted in a total of 297 new youths joining as Mitras and a total of 28 new groups being formed.



The Social Awareness Programme, meanwhile, focuses on raising the youth's awareness on various issues in their villages and encouraging them to take responsibility towards the society. Creating interest, sensitising the youth, changing their thinking perspective, and brining about social transformation through

ASK Orientation Program held at Bhandara

more proactive actions are just some of the aims of the programme. ASK Akola implemented six awareness programmes on environmental protection, HIV/AIDS, and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) Gramsabha. A total of 1200 youths were reached by the social awareness programme from various villages. As for ASK Nagpur, 10 campaigns and programs on environment protection, right to information (RTI), prevalence of HIV, and participation in Gramsabhas were organised. A total of 1600 youths in the covered villages were reached through these social awareness programs. All the social awareness programme activities were organised or co-facilitated by youth Sathis.

Mitras and Sathis also play a big role in helping the district facilitators conduct youth fairs or Melawas. A total of six (6) youth fairs, three (3) for each ASK cluster, were organised in this period and reached out to 2100 youth (900 for ASK Akola, 1200 for ASK Nagpur). The Melawas provides the platform by which youths are directed towards enlarging their perspectives and attitude on social issues affecting their lives and their communities. The youth fairs also create an atmosphere of openness and camaraderie among the participants, allowing them to express themselves without fear of being laughed at or looked down upon. The sharing of stories on overcoming life's challenges and motivational stories from Sathis further encourage new members to join as Mitras.

Participation in community decision-making processes, including Gramsabhas, is also being promoted during Melawas, prompting the youth to take more responsibility for their family and village's welfare.

Another component of the Youth Motivation program is the Capacity Building and Training of the youth to encourage them to take part in nation building processes and develop their knowledge and skills. ASK Akola and ASK Nagpur both conducted activities on HIV/AIDS and Men's Engagement in Gender to capacitate the youth in having a deeper understanding of the prevalence of the disease, it's impact to their society and community, and how the fear of the prevalence can be addressed. A total of 134 youth from the Buldhana district participated in the two activities held by ASK Akola and 62 youth participated in the training organised by ASK Nagpur.

In addition, 10 ASK Akola youth also participated in the Hamara Beej Abhiyan Campaign held in Mumbai as they get involved in the nationwide issue of genetic modification that affects food and agriculture in India. Moreover, ASK

Akola established a Youth Information Centre at Washim district that will provide the youth with various information on career, employment, further studies, trainings, and government schemes. With the positive response from the youth in the community, ASK Akola is planning on establishing 10 more youth information centres in the coming years.

ASK Nagpur, in partnership with Nehru Yuva Kendra, has also organised another program on to provide the rural youth with avenues on how they can develop their personality and skills. A total of 79 youth participants from Gadchiroli, Chandrapur, Nagpur and Wardha attended the 7-day programme on youth clubs, community development, and youth empowerment.

The Orientation Programme, with the biggest geographical and institutional coverage, reached the most number of youth at 7500. The youth outreach of the Social Awareness programme activities numbered at 2800 while the youth fairs are at 2100. Capacity building activities had an outreach of 268 youth. Table 3 shows the total youth outreach through the youth motivation programme for ASK Akola and ASK Nagpur.



Street play training workshop held in Nagpur

Table 3: Youth Motivation Activities, Coverage and Outreach for ASK Akola and ASK Nagpur					
	Akola		Nagpur		
Activities	Coverage/Programmes	Outreach	Coverage/Programmes	Outreach	
Orientation Programmes	10 villages and colleges	4000	16 villages and colleges	3500	
Social Awareness Programmes	6 awareness programmes	1200	10 awareness programs and campaigns	1600	
Youth Fairs	3 Melawas	900	3 Melawas	1200	
Capacity Building and	2 HIV/AIDS training and Men's Engagement in Gender	134	HIV/AIDS training	62	
Training	Hamara Beej Abhiyan	10	Nehru YUVA Kendra	79	

The second broad intervention programme, Youth Exchange, provided avenues and platforms for the exchange of opinions, learnings, different social realities, and relevant development processes among the youth in the districts covered by the YUVA Rural ASK Programme and even outside the ASK Akola and ASK Nagpur clusters.

Under this intervention, two core group meetings were conducted for ASK Akola and ASK Nagpur. The main objective of the meeting, participated by 18 core group members, were to review and analyse ASK activities that were already conducted and to plan for the programmes that are yet to be implemented. The meeting also gave the chance for the core group members to interact with youth from other districts to exchange their ideas and views on different local and national issues as well as discuss and develop new strategies to address difficulties in implementing activities.

Exposure visits were also done by the youths, with different focus per cluster. ASK Akola opted to facilitate an exposure visit to the dal mill at the Dhanaj village in Washim district. There were 16 sathis from nine (9) villages who were exposed to dal production and processing. As a result, four (4) youth took the responsibility of marketing the products which in turn helped improve their livelihood capacities and generated possible self-employment opportunities. On the other hand, ASK Nagpur focused on honing the leadership skills of youth by facilitating an exposure visit to Wardha district for the village development plan. Through the exposure visit, five (5) youth took the initiative to get involved in the district's development planning and identified various resources and opportunities where the youth can participate and further develop their capacities.

As for Youth Forum Building, the third broad programme intervention, both YUVA Rural ASK clusters and youth participated in an Anti-Corruption Campaign. More than 7000 youth from both ASK Akola (more than 3000) and ASK Nagpur (more than 4000) clusters participated in the campaign. This included youth from ASK Akola (4 districts, 13 blocks, 130 villages) and ASK Nagpur (7 districts, 21 blocks, 105 villages).

#### Table 4: Participation for Youth Exchange and Youth Forum Activities

	Participants			
Activities	Akola	Nagpur		
Core Group Meetings	18 (or 9) core group members	18 (or 9) core group members		
Exposure Visit	16 sathis	5 youth		
Anti-corruption Campaign	More than 3000	More than 4000		

# **Major Challenges and Learnings**

During the six months of YUVA Rural ASK facilitation, the clusters of ASK Akola and ASK Nagpur had to go through some challenges that imposed setbacks to the programme implementation.

- As youth leaders get occupied with their jobs, marriages and other personal activities, a floating state of leadership exists in the MYP. This also results to the MYP's and lack of focus in implementing its activities.
- Delays in the implementation of activities were also experienced due to the challenge of appointing and sustaining a youth facilitator in the Nagpur region.
- Limited financial resources also pose a big challenge for future implementation of the program.

With these challenges, several learnings have been elicited from engagement with the youth.

- Campaigns and issues directly relating to youth promotes active participation and increases the youth outreach. Hence, there is a need to focus on key and common issues to further encourage youth involvement.
- Freedom to work with the MYP allows the youth to develop their potential. Providing opportunities to participate and take responsibilities—whether in tasks, programs or campaigns—increases the commitment of youth.
- The democratic nature of decision-making processes ensure participation of the youth, be it in the form of expressing their opinions
  or voting as a collective. In this regard, the participatory element of decision-making should be promoted and maintained among
  the youth groups.

# ii. Wada Na Todo Maha Abhiyan

VVA Rural is an active member of the National Campaign on Governance and Accountability towards MDGs. Wada Na Todo Maha Abhiyan (WNTMA) is the state campaign led by YUVA Rural.

#### **Activities and Outcomes**

Several activities were conducted under the WNTMA campaign. These included several meetings of the District Campaign Committees, State Steering Committees, and key government officials. A total of 12 District Campaign Committees have been formed. A five-day training was also conducted for 22 volunteers from 12 districts. The sessions were designed in such a way that the volunteers were made aware of the issues faced by people in



A woman sharing her case story at the National Hearing on Women and Climate Justice

Maharashtra, the various Acts and schemes available for the benefit of people and their expectations, contributions and duties as volunteers and individuals towards the society.

YUVA Rural has also been very active in its participation in consultations and tribunals. In collaboration with Global Call to Action Against Poverty (G-CAP), a National Hearing on Women and Climate Justice was conducted to study the impact of climate change on the lives of the poor, and rural tribal communities. Scientists, experts and community members (30 members in all) participated in the national hearing.

The National Action Plan on Climate Change and the State Action Plans of Karnataka, Gujarat, Assam, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi were discussed with a gender perspective. The Report created on the basis of this hearing would be presented to the National and the State Governments for advocacy purposes and to bring about the necessary changes and provisions to address the climate change issue with a gender perspective.

Presentations of papers from experts in different regions were presented and compiled to be shared with the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Food Security Bill. A one-day women's tribunal was also conducted for the presentation of women's case stories from the deprived sections of the society.

Case stories on poverty, health and education were also collected from the different districts in the State. The topics covered in these case stories include status of PHCs at the block level, 15 years of no child birth in a PHC due to its dismal functioning, non-availability of medicines at the local level, lack of transportation facilities in case of emergencies, lack of availability of quality education, lack of proper processes with respect to mid-day meal scheme, lack of water and sanitation facilities in school, no efforts in mainstreaming children of NTs and DNTs in the

education system, etc. As of 31 March 2012, 24 case stories from 13 districts have already been finalised in the audio-visual (for Poverty) and written (Health and Education) forms.

Another main activity to raise awareness and promote advocacy in claiming children's rights is the Nine is Mine event conducted on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The Nine is Mine campaign states that 9% (6% education, 3% health) of the government funds must be set aside in each budget to improve the quality of life and fulfil the basic education and health needs of the children. A total of 24,889 teachers and students participated in the event from Nagpur and Bhandara districts. Data on the vacant positions in the Health and Education sectors were also collected to raise the issue in the budget sessions. These were also communicated to media to increase public awareness.



Nine is Mine event being conducted at a school in Kamptee, Nagpur

# YUVA Units—YUVA Urban

# Introduction

U nderstanding and intervening in issues of urban poverty, environment and governance in the city, state and national levels have been undertaken by YUVA Urban since its beginnings while working with the youth in the worker's colony of Jogeshwari in North West Mumbai. YUVA Urban continues to focus on engagements with youth, women and children to protect and promote the rights of the urban poor to housing, basic services, education, livelihood, social security, and public participation.

Over the years, YUVA Urban has implemented projects and interventions which ranged from action



Awareness campaigns, advocacy and capacity building form part of YUVA Urban's interventions

organisation to creation of alternatives, from training and capacity building to formation of people's organisations and institutions, and research and policy work to lobbying and advocacy. YUVA Urban's endeavour to engage holistically on social issues accounts for its broad range of activities that span from action organization in communities to international solidarity action.

While the range of interventions become wider and broader over the years, the focus of YUVA Urban's programmes remain the same—enable vulnerable groups to access their rights and address human rights violations in the cities. YUVA Urban works to build linkages between the direct experiences of communities and the larger context of the cities, states and countries. YUVA Urban strengthens the capacities of communities to understand and respond effectively to the local development issues, and encourage new formations—such as community action groups and groups of women, youth and children to engage in development.

YUVA Urban has direct operations in Mumbai, Nagpur, Nallasopara and Sangli in Maharashtra. These offices facilitate engagements in state, national and global action through its training, advocacy, research and networking activities. The three key areas of intervention which form the basis of work of YUVA Urban are the following thematic clusters:

- A. Economy (Poverty)
- B. Habitat
- C. Social Transformation

#### A. Economy (Poverty)

n the sphere of economy, the focus is on the legalisation and social security for unorganised sector workers. YUVA Urban defends the rights of the large number of informal sector workers<sup>1</sup> who, despite contributing to India's economic growth, continue to be undervalued and exploited. In the course of its work in cities, YUVA has time and again come face-to-face with the harsh realities of the large but unacknowledged mass of unorganised labor prevalent in cities like Mumbai. Although their contribution to the economic prosperity of the city is immense, their stake on its resources and even their right to live as citizens of the city continues to be negated.

YUVA aims to promote the right to work with dignity and social security of the informal workers. The issue of migrant workers is especially taken up by this cluster as the vulnerability of this group is immense. The cluster also facilitates savings, credit, income generation and skill upgrading processes with the urban

<sup>1</sup>YUVA understands informal workers to be all those who work outside the protection of labor laws and/or social security benefits.

informal workers groups. Overall, the work is organized under two domains: informal sector and social security and the migrant resource centre.

#### i. Establishing and Securing Informal Workers' Rights in the Context of Urbanisation

**Y**UVA has been working towards its goal of ensuring rights and representation of informal workers. Part of the activities to achieve this goal is the implementation of the project "Establishing and Securing Informal Workers Rights in the Context of Urbanisation" under the domain of Informal Sector and Social Security. Working at a national, regional and state level, YUVA has conducted and participated in numerous activities to empower workers with the knowledge and leadership skills they require to effectively participate in the advocacy process.

The Central Government has made a National Policy on Street Vendors which is being drafted by a few states. The process of policy implementation in these states as well as in the remaining states is one of YUVA's key objectives. Therefore, YUVA has been working to spread awareness about the policy and build hawkers' capacities as leaders so that they can effectively represent themselves on Town Vending Committees.

In many states, the policy is being misused to regulate and evict hawkers. YUVA, along with the National Hawkers Federation, is demanding a Central Act for hawkers so that it will be compulsory for all states to implement effectively. YUVA Urban has focused its energies on these issues both at the national and state level.



National Hawkers Federation workshop held in Kolkata

Over and above focusing on the issues of street vendors and the demand for a Central Act for Hawkers, YUVA worked on social security and housing issues of informal workers. YUVA highlighted these issues through its various networks by conducting and participating in multiple meetings, workshops and programs at the state and regional level.

In the state of Maharashtra, YUVA has been following its sectoral approach and working with domestic workers, construction workers and street vendors. The State Government has already come up with an act and a policy. To work towards better implementation of the policy and act at the state level, YUVA Urban is spreading awareness and information through workshops and training programmes. These workshops and training programs promote organization building and capacity building of these sectoral groups to develop their leadership potential and in turn step up advocacy efforts.

#### **Activities and Outcomes**

The activities conducted under this domain are grouped into three. In the first set of activities—implementation and monitoring of National Street Vendors Act (NSVA) and National Social Security Act (NSSA) at a national level—YUVA works to monitor and improve the implementation of the Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act and the National Policy on Street Vendors. YUVA strives to achieve these objectives by conducting and participating in meetings, workshops and consultations at a national and regional level.

Over the last two years, YUVA's focus has been to strengthen national level federations and networks. By engaging in capacity building initiatives, YUVA has worked to make these entities independent so that they can handle the monitoring and implementation process themselves. We have noticed a significant improvement in the capacity of the members and leaders of the National Hawkers Federation over the last two years. They are now functioning independently. They conduct regular working committee meetings to review their work and plan ahead. Through regional and national workshops the identity of this federation has been recognized by bureaucrats and government officials.

Through the conduct of these activities, YUVA Urban's efforts have made strides in ensuring that the policies and acts are being implemented in accordance to its provisions and that the informal sector and workers' collectives are able to access their rights and work with dignity and social security. Detailed in Table 5 are some of the outcomes of the various activities undertaken for NSVA and NSSA at the national level.

The second set of activities—campaigning in four states (Jarkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, and Bihar) for implementation and monitoring of the NSSA and National Policy for Street Vendors—YUVA has continued its endeavor

	Table 5: Activities and Outcomes for NSVA and NSSA at a National Level
Set of Activities	Outcomes
	Participated in and made a presentation at a Regional Workshop organized by the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the South Zone on the National Hawkers Policy and its implementation on 3rd and 4th August 2011 in Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu. The primary aim of the workshop was to review the South Zone Policy and promote states to make their own policies. YUVA put forth suggestions on the process of drafting and implementing the policy.
	Participated and presented at the National Workshop organized by the Central Government and Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) in Mumbai on 23 August to discuss the state-wise implementation of the National Hawkers Policy.
	Participated and presented at a Regional Workshop organised by the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the South Zone on the National Hawkers Policy and its implementation on 29-30 August at Puducherry, Tamil Nadu.
Implementation and Monitoring of National Street Vendors Act and National	YUVA, the National Hawkers Federation and Equation Workshop organized a two day National Workshop in Delhi on Tourism, Social Security and Hawkers Policy on the 15-16 September, 2011. The participants focused on discussing tourism as it is the biggest aspect of street vending which has not been highlighted in the National Policy. Around 70 participants from India participated in this workshop. Most importantly, more than 25 women vendors attended the workshop. As an outcome, the forum at the workshop decided that a National Workshop for Women Vendors would be conducted in the coming year to address the issues of women hawkers.
Social Security Act at a National Level	Along with the National Hawkers Federation (NHF), organised a National Workshop in Delhi on the 19 -20 December to discuss the Central Government Act for Street Vendors. More than 1200 delegates from all over India attended and put forth their views on the formation of a central government act for street vendors.
	Played an integral role in a two-day workshop on 21-22 December to build the capacities and foster leadership of street vendors to empower them with the skills to effectively advocate for a Street vendors Act in Surat, Gujarat. This workshop was attended by 55 participants.
	Participated and put forth recommendations at the National Consultation organized by the Central Government on a Central Act for Street Vendors in Delhi on 23 December.
	YUVA along with the National Hawkers Federation organized a National Workshop on the implementation of the Street Vendors Policy on 21-22 March, 2012 in New Delhi. There were totally 70 participants from different parts of the country. The participants shared their experiences from different states regarding the implementation of the policy. This discussion led to common consensus on the need for a central act. The attendees also planned a march demanding this central act during the winter session of 2012.
	YUVA participated in a National meeting organized by SSN in Hyderabad on Social Security and the future plan of the Social Security Now Campaign on 30th March 2012.

to ensure proper implementation of national acts and policies. YUVA has worked towards a better monitoring and implementation of the acts in these four states through conducting meetings, workshops and demonstrations.

Enacting central policies and acts is only half the battle. It is of utmost importance to implement these policies effectively at the state level. In order to achieve this it is important to have a strong empowered group of people in the state who are capable of advocating for the effective implementation of the policies and acts. Through the fellowship model, YUVA has been doing exactly this. Our fellows have invested their time identifying different organizations and engaging them in dialogue and discussion processes.

YUVA aims to focus on building the capacities of the major groups and leaders in these states to empower them to play an active and effective role in state and city level committees. This will help form a strong advocacy group at the state level. The work with hawkers has been primarily on their issues of social security, livelihood and housing. Details of some activities conducted for Campaigns in the Four States for NSSA and NPSV are shown in Table 6.

For the third set of activities—mobilisation and organisation of various sectoral groups (street vendors, domestic workers and construction workers) to advocate for their right to work, social security and dignity—YUVA worked on capacity building of domestic workers' collectives and organisation building activities. The Maharashtra Domestic Workers Welfare Board rolled out registration for membership. YUVA is playing a key role in ensuring domestic workers are effectively registered with the Welfare Board.

Table 6: Activities and Outcomes for Campaigns in Four States for NSSA and NPSV		
Set of Activities	Outcomes	
	Conducted meetings and workshops in multiple cities in Jharkhand, Bihar and Odisha in October and November to identify street vendors' organizations and to build their capacity and understanding on the Street Vendors' Policy. Workshops were conducted in four regions of Jarkhand, three in Bihar, and three in Odisha. City level meetings were held in Punjab, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh on hawkers' policy implementation and organization building.	
Campaigning in	Held state level meetings in Kolkatta, West Bengal on 24 November for the state level Hawkers Policy and Act and its implementation status in different parts of the state.	
four states (Jarkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, and Bihar) for	Organised a state-level workshop together with the National Hawkers Federation on Hawkers Policy and organisation building on 27 November in Muzaffarnagar, Bihar. Attended by 33 district representa- tives, the workshop's aim was to build the capacities of hawkers' leaders and build a Bihar state-level organisation for advocacy on Hawkers Policy and related issues.	
Implementation and Monitoring	Held state level meetings and demonstrations on 1 December in Nagpur, Maharashtra to reaffirm the stand against FDI in the retail sector as proposed by the Government.	
of the NSSA and National Policy for Street Ven- dors	Held a state-level meeting and demonstration in Odisha on 10 December (Human Rights Day) to pro- mote and protect the rights of hawkers by proposing to have state-level hawkers policies and acts. As a result, the Odisha state government formed a committee on the 20 December to work on the street vendors' policy.	
	Conducted city level meeting and workshop in Surat on 21-22 December on organisation development and implementation of hawkers' policy. Attended by 45 representatives from the city, the workshop aimed to build the hawkers capacities and link them to state and national level processes.	
	Prepared a fact sheet to effectively monitor the process of policy implementation in 16 states and cities.	

Table 7: Activities and Outcomes for Mobilisation and Organisation of various Sectoral Groups	
Set of Activities	Outcomes
Mobilisation and Organisation of Various Sectoral Groups (street vendors, domestic workers and construction workers) to Advocate for their Right to Work, Social Security and Dignity	Facilitated the filling up of 5000 domestic workers and 900 construction workers for registration as beneficiaries of the respective welfare boards. Once registered, the workers will be entitled to prescribed social security benefits.
	Conducted district level workshops for domestic workers and construction workers in Thane (10 August), Navi Mumbai (20 October) and Nagpur (2 December) focused on social security of informal workers and sectoral organisation building.
	Conducted Maharashtra state level workshop in Mumbai from 29 October to 1 November on organisation building and implementation of the Domestic Workers Act. Around 130 women attended the residential workshop.
	Held city level workshop in Sangli on 28-29 November to build capacities of street vendors, domestic workers and construction workers on organisation building processes so that they can reap the benefits of the policy and act. Around 45 participants attended this workshop.
	Intervened, together with a group of ministers, with regards to amendments in the street vendors policy and implementation in the Nagpur Assembly on 15 December.
	YUVA conducted a Regional workshop and public meeting in Sangli on social security and the implementation of the Domestic Workers Act on 3rd January 2012. More than 3000 women were present for this meeting.
	State level Capacity building and training program for construction workers and domestic workers was held in Goa from the 11th-13th of March. The objective of this workshop was to review the current systems and processes and strategize an expansion plan for the future.

# ii. Empowerment of Migrant Workers through Facilitation of Support Services and Advocacy for Legal Entitlements

E ach year, millions of people from the rural villages migrate to Mumbai and urban cities believing in the promise of a better life. However, this promise gets fulfilled only to a small fraction of the migrant worker population—leaving the vast majority in the cruel hands of poverty. These migrant laborers who are new to the

city have no social security, no identity of their own, and are thus invisible to the government officials, policy-makers and public at large.

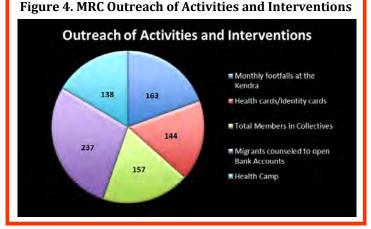
Under the Migrant Resource Centre domain, YUVA Urban has established a facilitation centre at Navi Mumbai with its 'Empowerment of Migrant Workers through Facilitation of Support Services and Advocacy for Legal Entitlements' project funded by Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai. The Pravashi Shramik Sahayata evam Margdarshan Kendra, aptly referred to as Migrant Resource Centre (MRC), was set-up to provide migrant workers basic services and address their needs.

The project, being implemented from August 2011 to July 2014, targets seasonal and semi-permanent migrant workers seeking employment in the city of Navi Mumbai. The project aims to enhance understanding about

seasonal and semi-permanent migration patterns to peripheral areas of a mega city by facilitating services to this population and engaging in advocacy for comprehensive legislature for migrant workers. Apart from setting up the facilitation centre, the projects main activities include the following: research and documentation for evidence-based enquiry; networking and advocacy; and training, capacity building and knowledge sharing.

#### **Activities and Outcomes**

N avi Mumbai has suddenly surged forward in growth, wherein not only residential but also commercial and infrastructure projects are being built



across the entire expanse of the city. This attracts a large number of migrant workers to work within the city limits. Thus, the intervention has been focused in the Navi Mumbai area, specifically between the administrative nodes of Belapur to Panvel.

Some of the services provided are health camps for migrant workers, different awareness programmes at construction sites, registration of laborers in beneficial schemes, helping them open bank accounts, make PAN cards and so on. The MRC also organizes labour collective meetings known as Majdoor Manno Milan, where workers find a space to express themselves. To date, the outreach of the MRC is at an approximate of 839 workers.



National Coalition of Organizations for Security of Migrant Workers' meeting

Figure 4 shows the breakdown of MRC's outreach classified based on activities and interventions.

Along with provision of basic services and identity cards, MRC also aims to provide counseling, legal aid and other useful information to laborers. Furthermore, MRC is at present in the process of initiating a Shramik Helpline.

The Migrant Resource Centre has also been working on evidence-based research on seasonal and semi-permanent migrant laborers. Results from the inquiry are used to complement our policy advocacy for migrant rights. As a working group member of National Coalition for Security of Migrant Workers (NCOSMW), YUVA Urban participated actively at national level meetings and conferences and has also become the convener for State Coalition for Security of Migrant Workers.

# **B.** Habitat

uman habitat encompasses an understanding of marginalization and vulnerability in the context of living spaces in cities. Spaces refer to places of residence and also of work. In both, there are multiple layers which include presence of essential services, collective ownership, and management of the areas. The crux of a



The MRC facilitates health camps, access to other services, and awareness programs for migrant workers

comprehensive habitat is good and inclusive governance. Keeping these components in mind, the Habitat Cluster engages in strengthening public participation for accountability and decentralization of urban governance, as well as building capacities on leadership for social change and development in communities. It also includes creating access and defending housing rights as well as preventing evictions. This cluster works to enhance access to basic services and promoting systems for the collective management of the same. Thus, the main arms of this cluster are: Right to Housing and Basic Services, Right to Water, Participation and Accountability in Urban Governance.

# i. Re-visioning Urban Spaces – An Intervention for Better Habitat for Urban Poor

Working on the Development Plan has brought YUVA closer to the issues of urban planning and exclusion of the people from the spaces within the city. Through this project, funded by a grant from The Ford Foundation, has brought a new lens to see the issues hounding urban housing and development from a microperspective. The work in this project has been a learning experience for YUVA in understanding norms and standards and in engaging people in the process of translating certain instruments like Development Plan to their agenda.

#### **Activities and Outcomes**

M ajority of the activities throughout the year were focused on national intervention initiatives, advocacy efforts on Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY), awareness campaign and ground truthing on Mumbai Development Plan, and networking with local and international housing rights groups.

For national intervention initiatives, YUVA Urban has been instrumental in organising the first Independent Fact Finding team consisting of lawyers, trade unionists, social workers and activists to investigate what was happening during the massive evictions in Jharkhand, particularly in the cities. A primary report was made, including the articulation of demands, which was sent far and wide



Awareness campaign on Mumbai Development Plan

even to the UN Special Rapporteur on Housing. The intervention also helped in bringing attention to the issue and awakening of grassroots movements to the reality of forced evictions. The collective of groups who were involved in the fact finding team continued the work on the ground which included awareness, public hearing, and mass protests, etc.

A two-day workshop, attended by more than 35 participants from Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Bokaro and Dhanbad, was conducted to discuss and enhance the capacity of activists of ASES and Samyukta Basti Samiti to deal with situations like evictions. The workshop discussed the United Nations (UN) Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-based Evictions and Forced displacement, the Understanding of General Comments on Forced Evictions, and the Government of India Guidelines on RAY which promised property rights to slum dwellers.

In furthering the promotion and advocacy of the RAY towards the protection of people against forced evictions, YUVA Urban has taken upon itself a policy of creative and critical engagement. YUVA has been attending and presenting its point of view in various meetings called by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (HUPA). During the last year, it has conducted several training programmes among communities and with organizations on the potentials of this particular program. The Joint Meeting called by YUVA, HLRN and IGSS was in a way responsible to influence the National Advisory Council (NAC) and their comments on the scheme. After this response, the articles for criminalising the urban poor were dropped from the draft property rights bill.

In addition, YUVA Urban also made some responses in connection to RAY on the Guidelines and Slum Free City Planning. Regional workshops were also held in Bhubaneshwar and Ranchi on the Final RAY Guidelines, Property Rights Bill, and Slum Free City Planning Guidelines. These were attended by people from Orissa, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Bihar. The latest guidelines, which were revised after inputs from all quarters including the civil society, were shared with grassroots groups working with informal labor and slum communities. This helped facilitate the integration of the demand for housing particularly under RAY within the informal sector. Capacity building programme on RAY with partners in Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar and with members of the National Hawkers Federation has also clearly enhanced their participation in national debates on RAY. Another focus for the project is the awareness campaign on the Development Plan (DP). This was also connected to the advocacy efforts on RAY. Although work was delayed, this did not deter the conduct of preparatory activities.



Stakeholder consultations and discussions were held in community and city levels

The work then started on a very high note with the creation of a collective, participated in by YUVA, which consisted of architects, social workers, activists and academicians. The collective conducted two programs one in collaboration with Mumbai University and another on Open Spaces in YWCA. These initiated a discussion on the Development Plan in the Mumbai Civil Society.

Though beset by the setback of human resource issues resulting to lull in activities, training programmes were conducted later on in the communities. These trainings, which included the history and politics of planning in Mumbai, how to read the DP Maps, UDPFI Guidelines on norms and standards, among others, were conducted in P North Ward, M Ward, K East Ward and at zone and city levels.

A people's charter of demand was also prepared with extensive discussion, conducted in communities and city level, on issues faced by the urban poor particularly on space demands. The Charter of Demands, after distribution to various political parties and government officials, was later on published and has led to an awareness Yatra. The Yatra was focused on the need for people's understanding and intervention in the DP formulation process. The Yatra—which used posters, stickers, pamphlets, street plays, and flex banners to compare the DP plan and the existing land using Google Earth—went to 10 different communities in P North and in K East wards of Mumbai and had an outreach of more than 5000 people. The Yatra stimulated resulted in a number of communities writing to

authorities to include their areas as residential areas and be accorded with civic amenities and basic services.

After the awareness campaigns, the Project proceeded with the ground truthing to verify the existing realities as compared to the intended DP implementation. The P North ward was chosen to be the area of the study, with the results to be generalized to the context of the city level. A team equipped with cameras and DP maps went to actual spots in the P North Ward, focusing on four fronts: 1) educational institutions; 2) open spaces ; 3) health institutions; and 4) public housing. Through the data collected in these four parameters, YUVA Urban and the project aims at addressing the issue of marginalisation of the urban poor in the mapping,



Capacity building for understanding Mumbai Development Plan in the context of tenure rights and basic amenities

planning and execution of the DP. It is expected that once completed, the ground truthing report will bring to light the state of the urban poor's access to resources and their perspectives on the realities of the DP and its execution.

To garner more support and promote a more cohesive and effective action, YUVA Urban has also linked with other institutions advocating for RAY and raising awareness on the DP. The Urban Design Research Institute (UDRI) has organized various consultations on the Mumbai DP wherein YUVA has participated through giving inputs on workshops specific to housing,

# Challenges, Countermeasures and Lessons Learned

Working on the Development Plan, which is a new area of initiative, was a challenge to the organization. Technicalities and legalities to understand the process and procedures for people's participation in the Development Plan were the biggest challenge.

To overcome these challenges, the organization worked on capacity building of its staff. Trainings and activities to understand the development plan and its processes were conducted through the facilitation of architects, urban planners and experts.

After building the capacities of staff and conducting direct intervention activities in P North ward, the next step is for the organization to facilitate the processes of development plan and participation in the city-wide level. YUVA fully intends to work with other development organisations and NGOs in taking the processes and implementing activities and campaigns for the Development Plan in their respective wards or areas. water, health and education. Several networking activities were also conducted in Nagpur. The visit to Kamgar Nagar contributed in debates on RAY and tenure rights while the field visit of TAG of BSUP helped them build understanding on ground realities which affected the failure of the BSUP scheme.

International networking was also facilitated through the World Habitat Day with dialogue on strategies of housing rights movement between activists from Mumbai and Thailand (FRSN-Four Region Slum Network) and Dignity International.

# ii. Redefining "Inclusiveness" in Governance from Urban Poor Context (Part II)

YUVA Urban has been focusing on Housing and Basic Services, Right to Water and Urban Governance areas of work under the Habitat cluster. Another project under this theme, Redefining "Inclusiveness" in Governance from Urban Poor Context (Part II), tackle these issues and promote leadership and active participation from the affected and vulnerable sectors to facilitate their inclusion in the change process.

#### **Activities and Outcomes**

Several activities were conducted to respond to the growing capacity building needs of various cooperative societies in the coverage areas. In addition, advocacy and networking remains to be among the core activities that ensure the issues faced by the communities are kept relevant and known to the public at large. Moreover, participation in city, state and national activities and decision-making processes also allow the communities and stakeholders to be represented and heard. Community participation also facilitates better access to various government schemes and benefits.



Engaging stakeholders for collective action and participation

#### i) Housing and Basic Services

**V**UVA Urban's focus for this year was given on training programs, meetings and advocacy in relation to Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) Bill.

Along with resettlement and rehabilitation efforts, YUVA facilitates the people's access to basic services such as water connections and sanitation facilities, and in the formation of housing societies. Training programs and capacity building activities on processes for registration of housing societies and developing leadership and organizational skills were conducted. These included Accounts and Bookkeeping and Process of Recovery, Cooperative Values and Cooperative Acts and Rules, Housing Cooperative's Training, and Leadership and Organization Building.

Numerous meetings have also been conducted to discuss processes, policies and issues. A meeting at the rehabilitation site was held after the 71 families of eligible pavement dwellers from Ranibaugh Pavement were shifted to Lallubhai compound in Mankhurd, Mumbai.

There was also a meeting with the Minister for Rural Development Mr. Jairam Ramesh in Delhi as part of a national delegation on LAA and R&R Bill 2011. A delegation of the pavement dwellers met Minister of Housing on 11 October regarding extension of cut-off date from 1995 to year 2000 for eligibility in the rehabilitation of pavement dwellers. A meeting of the pavement dwellers was held to discuss the minister's suggestion regarding inclusion in Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY). A session of RAY was also conducted with various pavement community representatives. The delegation of the pavement dwellers is still continuing the advocacy for the extension of the cut-off date.

In addition, a delegation met the Bombay Municipal Corporation (BMC) standing committee on the issue of water scarcity in the rehabilitation sites. The delegation apprised the standing committee on the issue faced by the residents of Vashi Nakka. Meetings were also held with pavement dwellers to initiate the process of registering domestic workers in Domestic Workers Welfare Board.

#### ii) Right to Water

At the forefront of YUVA Urban's initiatives on right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation is the strengthening of mass organization Pani Haq Samiti (PHS), a forum of NGOs, CBOs, people's movement and activists working together on the water issues in Mumbai.

PHS took several initiatives to ensure the realisation of right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation, specifically in the context of the urban poor. These initiatives comprise awareness campaigns, media advocacy, and facilitation of petitions and litigation processes.

On the occasion of the first anniversary of the UN Declaration of right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right, a campaign on universal right to safe and clean drinking water was launched. The campaign included capacity building programs for community leaders, engagement with governance and public meetings. Over 1500 people participated in the campaign.

A sticker campaign was also conducted in Mumbai wherein 3000 stickers were displayed in public places on Right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation. Capacity building workshops were also facilitated on the issue of family level water management and its socio-economic aspects.

Meetings in the P/N and M ward communities were held to spread awareness and knowledge to initiate the process of getting water supply



Right to Water Awareness Campaign Week (22-28 July 2011)

connections in the informal settlements. PHS also worked with media closely in ensuring that the issues are being known to the public at large. Various articles and interviews appeared in print and visual media as part of the media campaign to highlight the denial of drinking water and other water and sanitation issues in the city.



Empowering communities through campaign leadership and participation

> *Pani Haq Samiti:* Campaign, Study and Media Advocacy

Campaigns

- Campaign on universal right to safe and clean drinking water
- Sticker campaign on right to water

#### Study

 Denial of drinking water—pricing life in Mumbai

#### Media Advocacy

- Articles in press
- Visual media
- Press conference

Two articles appeared in Marathi monthly and an interview was aired on NDTV, Zee 24 taas, TV9, DD Sahyadri on denial of drinking water by Mumbai Municipal Corporation. Right to Information Act (RTI) was used as instrument to access data from the MCGM on Sujal Mumbai Abhiyan to expose the contradictions and claims, widely reported in the media. A small study, 'Denial of drinking water–pricing life in Mumbai', on water pricing in non-notified slums of Mumbai was also brought out. A press conference was also organized and a campaign was conducted during the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai 2012 election to bring the issue of denial of drinking water to non-notified communities in Mumbai on the fore. Over 25 street meetings and two public meetings were held. They were attended by over 1000 participants. The issue was covered by more than five print media and two electronic media outfits.

More than raising awareness and publicising the issues, PHS also promoted participation and taking action. A petition was filed in National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) against denial of drinking water to post-1995 settlements (non-notified) of Mumbai. The NHRC, on its part, forwarded the petition to State Human Rights Commission for follow-up action. In addition, PHS also facilitated the process of filing Public Interest Litigation in the Mumbai bench of High Court of Maharashtra against denial of drinking water to non-notified communities in Mumbai. PHS also facilitated the process of filing of nine individual applications under Lokshahi Din<sup>2</sup> against denial of drinking water to post-1995 settlements. Regular follow-ups were done for the Lokshahi Din and High Court processes.

A consultation on the Draft National Water Policy, 2012 was conducted and attended by experts and over 40 participants from NGOs, CBOs and people's movements. The primary outcome of this consultation was a list of recommendations put together by the group and sent to the Ministry of Water Resources for consideration.

<sup>2</sup>Lokshahi Din is a space created for individuals by the Government of Maharashtra where grievances are looked into directly by the Chief Minister.

#### iii) Urban Governance

To encourage people's participation in urban governance, an Area Committee named as Azmi Nagar Vikas Samiti (AVS) functions as a representative body of the Area Sabha, in Azmi Nagar. The AVS is a people's collective that links the community and the government. Since its inception the AVS has been meeting with the elected representatives (Councillor, MLA and MP) and Ward officials on the various issues of the community.

Various training programs were conducted with AVS on local governance issues—including leadership skills, communication skills, garbage disposal mechanisms, and RAY. Follow-up meetings were held with Nagar Sevak and ward officer on water and garbage issues. Now, garbage is being collected on a regular basis and the community has started a dialogue with the contractor workers. Water connection in the area is also being followed-up with the Nagar Sevak.

With enhanced capacities, members of AVS have since facilitated committee meetings at Azmi Nagar to initiate the process and planning for Area Sabha. The AVS organized an Area Sabha in time with the BMC election. Around 350 people participated from Azmi Nagar and nearby communities from Malvani division. The Nagar Sewak and four new members contesting in the 2012 BMC Election from ward No. 44 were invited in the Area Sabha. This Area Sabha provided the opportunity for the AVS to share the Azmi Nagar manifesto with the contesting candidates. The manifesto's primary demand is the classification of Azmi Nagar as a notified slum as well as provision of basic services, water, sanitation, roads and transport facilities, education facilities for children, and removal of the 1995 cut-off date. The contesting candidates were asked to give their opinion and plans in connection with the manifesto.

Furthermore, YUVA has initiated the collection of the CPL legislations of twelve states. Efforts are being made to compare and analyse these legislations, specifically the state bills of Maharashtra, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Manipur, to understand how CPL is being implemented in various states.

In addition to initiatives on CPL and Area Sabha formations, YUVA has also initiated activities focused on the various legislations in the emerging context of corruption. Discussions and debates in the communities were conducted and more in-depth discussion were undertaken by YUVA to further understand the context of various legislations against corruption and its effects.

# Area Sabha

#### **Concept Overview**

In the year 2005, under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) mandatory reforms, the States were required to enact the Community participation Law (CPL), to institutionalize citizen participation in urban areas through formation of Ward Committees and Area Sabhas (corresponding to Gram Sabhas in rural areas).

The CPL envisages the concept of Area Sabha as a means of public participation in urban governance. The concept of Area Sabah is modelled on participatory democracy which is about structured citizen engagement at the local level.

The Area Sabha is conceived as an assembly of citizens comprising of one or multiple polling booths (up to five) covering 1000 to 5000 population. The Area Sabha is an effort to create institutional spaces which offer the urban poor an opportunity to democratically express their citizenship not only during elections, but also to assert their human rights in the on-going processes of governance.

# **City and State Initiatives**

A Governance Animator Training Program (GATP) was conducted at city level with activists and representatives from NGOs, CBOs and POs on the decentralization of the 74th Constitutional Amendment (CA) and Community Participation Law. The concepts and practice of Community Participation Law (CPL) was shared in the meeting so as to enable CBO's to initiate Area Sabha Process in their respective communities.

A state-level workshop was also facilitated in Bhopal to capacitate 15 staff members of two organizations, Aarambh and BGMS. The training was focused on decentralisation of governance with special emphasis on 74th CA and Nagar Raj Bill. After the training, staff members of Aarambh and BGMS have taken the initiative to start the process of forming Area Sabhas in Madhya Pradesh.

# **C.** Social Transformation

**Y**UVA's intervention in the overall urbanization process has always ensured the participation of the most vulnerable sections of the community—children, youth and women. It was with this perspective that the programme for women, youth and children was conceptualized as "work with specific population groups". Whether they are defined by age or gender, population groups face certain unique social developmental issues. Intervention strategies for these population groups are holistic and touch almost every aspect of their lives—from housing and health to education and work. The emphasis, with regard to women and youth is towards the promotion and nurturing of leadership for promotion of human rights. YUVA advocates child-centric approach in all governance processes and engages in sensitisation for the same. The areas of work under the Social Transformation cluster are child rights, youth rights and women's rights.

### i. Umeed

Under the Social Transformation cluster, YUVA Urban is working as one of the partner organizations in the Umeed programme from October 2009 onwards. Covering four slum communities of Garib Nagar, Pipeline, Berahmpada and Patel Nagar, YUVA's goal is for children in the project areas to develop in a safe and enabling environment that ensure their right to protection and participation. To achieve this goal, various activities are being implemented with the project beneficiaries—a total of 600 children, 300 women, and 200 youth.

#### **Activities and Outcomes**

n line with this goal, various activities—ranging from meetings and exposure visits to cultural programmes, girl child campaigns to child animator training programmes, and sessions on different forms of abuse to entitlement rights—have been conducted under the Umeed project. Figure 5 shows children's direct participation in activities.



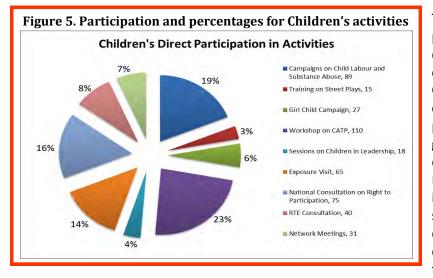
A child participant joining in the discussion in claiming her right to education

Activities with children ranged from campaigns, workshops, information dissemination and discussions on rights, sexual abuse, physical abuse, substance abuse, child labour and gender discrimination. Some meetings were also conducted to facilitate the making of the calendars and newsletters and drafting of the children's Charter of Demand. Some meetings were also used to explain the Charter of Demand to newly-formed children groups in some communities as well as to encourage the participation in disseminating information to other people in their communities. Since there were spaces built for the children, some of the meetings were also dedicated to come up with the office's name and in decorating their new group space.

The children have directly participated on campaigns against child labour and substance abuse, as well as for the promotion of the rights and protection of the girl child. Two street plays were also conducted in the three communities and two animators training for the Child Animators Training Program have been organised. There were also 10 meetings for sessions with children in leadership and several exposure visits to police stations, ward office and Child Welfare Committee, etc. were also organized to help the children better understand the government mechanisms and government structures in their communities. An exposure visit to the Hamara Foundation was conducted with children to understand how the Savings Bank functions. As a result, the children have decided to maintain separate books for each member.

# **Umeed Case Story:** Saving Fareen

Fareen, a 15-year-old girl from the Pipeline Community, was residing with her mother who is living with another man. Every day, she was being physically abused by her mother and the man every day. She was harassed at home, not allowed to get out of the house nor go to school. She was sent for domestic work to Bandra West. During the session on physical abuse with children, some children brought up this issue for discussion. On discussing with Fareen, she requested the team not to talk to her mother since she may seriously hurt her. The team got in contact with her biological father and shared his daughter's situation. He is residing at Tilak Nagar with his parents. He immediately came down and took his daughter with him.



There were also children who organised and participated in the flag hoisting programme during Independence Day on August 15. In celebration of Children's Day, children from Garib Nagar, Patel Nagar and Pipeline communities also organised a cultural programme on November 15. In addition, girls from the three communities participated during the Mehndi programme on 19 November. Children were also directly involved in the Girl Child Campaign at Bandra station through telecasting Meena documentaries and asking people to fill up questionnaires. The estimated outreach of the activity is more than 500 people, with

200 people filling up a questionnaire with regards to their understanding on gender discrimination. Some of them have also volunteered to support girls with their education fees and higher studies.

Follow-up sessions were also conducted with trained children from previous Child Animators Training Program (CATP) and another three-day CATP was conducted on 30 October to 1 November. The National Consultation on Child Participation held at Manori on 23-25 January included 75 children from eight (states) to discuss different best practices of children participation under the banner of "Envisioning social change through practising child participation". In addition, workshops and meetings on gender discrimination for girls and adolescents had a total of 3,420 participants for the year, 380 of whom have been consistently participating in the activities. There was also a viewership of 660 for the 15 films screened in the three communities. Recreational activities for children were also conducted, with 531 children participating. The two centers, Milan and BalAnand Bhavan, have accommodated 650 children users throughout the year.

YUVA Urban has also been active in campaigning for child rights and coordinating activities in the State level. The Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL) had organized a TOT on "Right to Participation" for grassroots workers. YUVA had played a leading role in designing and facilitating the sessions for the participants. This was done with the aim of building a resource group in the State and build capacities of partner organizations on child rights. CACL is also forming a Coordination Committee of children who would partner with adults in planning various strategies and programmes for the campaign.

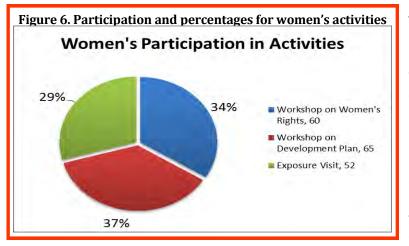
Apart from focusing on children's participation in the activities, the Umeed project also recognizes the needs of the youth and women in the communities, as well as the roles that these population groups play in addressing the needs of the children.

In addition to the meetings held, sessions on sexual abuse with children, women and youth were also conducted. In terms of youth, activities are more focused on in-depth discussions of substance abuse, sexual abuse, physical abuse and encouraging their participation and taking of action for the things that are happening in their community, including the community development plan. The Youth Animator Training Program (YATP) included five workshops attended by 70 youth. There were also 55 youth who participated in the exposure visit to Alibaug for awareness building on extinction of birds and to the ward office and corporator office.



The Umeed project also works for the development of women and Mahila Mandals

As for the meetings with women, topics are usually focused on substance abuse (their own and their children's), sexual abuse (at home, at workplace and in the streets), and domestic violence. Several activities and workshops on domestic violence and sexual abuse were held and attended by members of Mahila Mandals from the target communities. Meetings on development plan were also organised in communities as part of the entitlements rights. Most of these meeting sessions involve sharing of experiences from the participants or the facilitator, letting the women know that they are not alone.



The workshops on women's rights included right to property, marriage, and other women's rights like protection from domestic violence as well as capacity development for leadership skills. Capacity building on housing rights included discussions on their rights as citizens and raising their awareness on the Development Plan being undertaken in Mumbai. Discussions on creation of entitlements were done to help the participants understand the processes and the documents they would need to prepare in case of demolitions.

# *Umeed Case Story:* Ending Domestic Violence

Sainaz, from the Garib Nagar Community, has been married for the past five years and has a threeyear-old girl. Her husband used to physically hit her every day and demanded for money. She was constantly verbally and physically abused by her husband. Moreover, when she was pregnant, her husband declared the child she is carrying is not his. He wrote a letter with five people present saying that he has divorced her and forcefully had her sign the letter. She unknowingly signed the letter not knowing that the contents of the letter talks about divorce.

After attending sessions on women rights and interacting with Umeed project team, she has filed a case in family court on her own.

In total, seven (7) ration cards to community members in Pipeline and Garib Nagar were already secured. Additional 55 forms were also filled-out while 12 forms have been filled for Senior Citizens' card. Three (3) of whom were able to get the cards while nine (9) were rejected due to want of PAN cards.

#### Lessons learned/Best practices:

The collection of games materials has created new interest in the children's group and children lovingly come to the centre and made use of their spare time by playing quiz and other games.

The Milan Office at Garib Nagar and Bal Anand Bhavan at Patel Nagar has provided space for the children to play, study their academic lessons and spend time with each other. In the beginning, there were difficulties in terms of the timing of children who wanted to play and those who wanted to study in the space. This was sorted out through getting the children's reactions and suggestions on how to resolve the situation. This space has also helped the team to conduct more activities with different groups and is bound to help the UMEED team to conduct activities consistently.

# ii. Redefining "Inclusiveness" in Governance from Urban Poor Context (Part II)

A part from the Habitat sphere, YUVA Urban also works on Social Transformation through promoting and addressing issues of youth rights and women's rights.

#### **Activities and Outcomes**

M ajority of the activities for the youth were on capacity building and raising awareness to encourage inclusion and promote participation in community processes and development initiatives. Group Building of youths in Mankhurd and Ghatkhopar were conducted through meetings and training programs. Study circles on Police and Law and communalism as well as orientation program with leaders of community youth groups on the Right to Information (RTI), Lokpal Bill and civil society drafts (Jan Lokpal and NCRPI) were held.



The Basic film Workshop under the youth rights program for slum youth

Apart from meetings and discussions, creative and interactive activities were also done to further expose the youth to the concepts of community development. Building awareness on environment among young people was also done through a nature trail activity at Sanjay Gandhi National Park. The feature film Bol by Shoaib Mansoor was screened to initiate a discussion on gender in the community. The screening brought young people together to critically look at existing realities. A theatre workshop was also held for youths to enable them to articulate community development issues. YUVA conducted a street theatre workshop about voting rights, issues faced by the community and the roles and responsibilities of the Municipal Corporators. These issues were presented through street plays that were performed during the BMC Election 2012. Also in time with the election was a public meeting titled 'Basti Ka Vikas Ka Kya?' conducted in M-ward where the candidates of all political parties in the ward attended and presented their manifestos. The objective of this initiative was to make the candidates accountable to the community.

The group building of youths bore fruit when the membership of Sathe Nagar's youth group touched 150 members and that of Ekta Nagar touched 100. The study circle also had 25 youths that gained additional knowledge on Police and Law and communalism concepts and issues. Another 20 youth participated in the RTI orientation, with 4 RTIs being filed by participants as a follow-up output of the training. Moreover, the orientation on Lokpal Bill and civil society drafts garnered 25 participating youths. Meanwhile, the nature trail activity which was attended by about 50 young people resulted in people taking a pledge to keep their community clean and tidy.



In addition, as result of the street theatre workshop, the youth got inspired to raise awareness in their respective communities on the issues of basic services. The participation in the public meeting 'Basti Ka Vikas Ka Kya?' had a staggering outreach of 1500 people who can hold the candidates accountable to their community by learning about their manifestos.

Meanwhile, project activities for women were more focused on institutional strengthening of the Mahila Vikas Parishad and its leaders and core members as well as networking and facilitating State level engagements.

Three training programs were held for community level leaders of Mahila Vikas Parishad (MVP) on leadership, values, and Jan Lokpal bill. In addition, from 25 November to 10 December, community leaders observed 16 days of activities to stop violence against women. MVP leaders organized awareness and training programmes on gender and violence issues in 8-10 communities during this period. One capacity building workshop was also held for community and MVP leaders for strengthening leadership and sanghatana for advocacy on women's rights issues. MVP leaders also participated in capacity building for grassroots activist at Usmanabad and played active role in documenting cases of urban poor with gender focus.

YUVA Urban also facilitated regular core committees meetings consistently conducted every month for strengthening MVPs. The meetings were focused on developing the strategy and plan of action for the MVP's activities. Community visits were also conducted to monitor the progress and impacts of activities.

A workshop for the Single Women's Network (SWN) was also conducted in Tuljapur in association with Women's Study Centre (WSC) at Tata Institute of Social Sciences. This workshop focused on the issues of deserted women and their livelihood. An agenda was prepared, by the 50 leaders and WSC members that attended, for future work and research to be carried forward by the Women's Study Group. Monthly meetings for SWN were also conducted to improve coordination within the network and chalk out a plan for future work. Meetings were held with the Women and Child Welfare Department (WCWD) through the network on budgetary provisions for the effective implementation of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA). Moreover, community and MVP leaders actively participated in PWDVA implementation State review meeting organized by the WCWD. YUVA

Urban also facilitated the monthly State steering committee of the SWN. A state level training program for district leaders was also organised with support from the National Forum. Community leaders were also able to attend the general assembly meeting of National Forum at Delhi.

Furthermore, YUVA Urban has also focused on expanding the network of women's groups in Maharashtra and in promoting participation on issues such as women's health, basic rights, and female feticide, among others, with other organisations. The engagement with women's groups in Maharashtra in the process of reviewing Maharashtra Women's Policy and drafting alternate policy with recommendations. Other engagement with women's groups and civil society members are on advocacy efforts for free, public, clean and safe women's urinary. MVP leaders had taken responsibility to survey the N ward for identifying realities related to issues and preparing the manifesto for the BMC Elections 2012. The focus of the manifesto was free access to public toilets for women living on the pavements. Public meetings were conducted to discuss this manifesto and the final product was given to Municipal Authorities.

# iii. Apna Anubhav (Anubhav Shiksha Kendra, ASK)

A pna Anubhav aims to organize the marginalised youth groups in Mumbai. Apna Anubhav is involved in forming youth organisations comprising of youth from slums, pavements and streets. It aims at building awareness on gender and sexuality, social justice, communal harmony, etc. and development of leadership among youth. The program provides opportunities for the youth to lead and participate in the development processes. The aim is to work with youth from diverse backgrounds and facilitate group building processes among them. The groups have focused mainly on the non-student youth from various slums and pavements. The activities undertaken during this year was categorized under three broad intervention themes: Youth Motivation, Youth Exchange, and Youth Forum Building.

#### **Activities and Outcomes**

Youth Motivation activities include youth meetings, orientation programmes, social awareness events, youth fairs, trainings and capacity building programmes. Workshops on "Love and Relationship", "Peace and Conflict Resolution", Street Theatre, Songs of Movement, and Basic Film Making were conducted as well as sessions on Janlokpal Bill, Right to Information, and a Program on Education System and its impact on youth. A female youth group was also formed and a Youth Festival was held. Details of each activity are found on Table 8.

This year, the final tally for the number of youth in the AASK Cadre is a total of 442. Of which, 210 are female and 232 are male. There are 22 Sathis, 82 Sahyogis, and 338 Mitras. The breakdown of the cadre as per categories is shown in Figure 8.

Youth Exchange activities include exposure meetings, exchange on relevant development processes, and participation in regional and state level events. Open talk on value of volunteerism, exposure visits to SAATH's Youth Employability Programme (Umeed) in Gujarat, Sanjay Gandhi Sanctuary Park, Kala Ghoda Festival, and Jairapur



Discussion session with youth during the Sanjay Gandhi Park exposure visit



Participants express themselves through music and dance during youth melawas

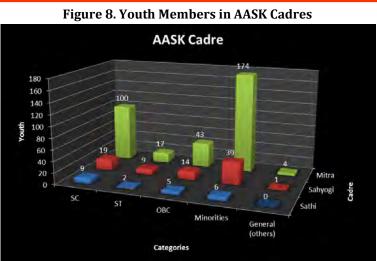


Table 8: Details of Youth Motivation Activities				
Activity	Participants	Details		
Workshop on Love and Relationships	20 youth (8 female, 14 male)	Conducted at the Yusuf Mehar Ali Centre on 23-24 April, the workshop's main objective was to make the participants understand the difference between love, friendship, attraction, and relationships. This is to try and create healthy environment with relatives, friends and others.		
Peace and Conflict resolution workshop	30 youth	Conducted at Yusuf Mehar Ali Centre on 7-8 May, the objectives of the workshop are to make the participants understand the concept of communalism, prejudice about Islam in the society, and the history and perspectives of the kings behind destroying the temples and mosques, and how the political parties use the youth in various anti- society activities.		
Session on Janlokpal Bill	21 youth (20 female, 1 male)	Conducted at Malavani Community in Malad on 7 June, the interactive session's objective was to promote understanding and awareness of the youth on Lokpal Bill, the difference between Lokpal and Janlokpal Bills, and its importance.		
Session on Right To Information	More than 30 youth	Conducted at MankhurdSathe Nagar on 19 June, the session guided the youth on how RTI can be used to know the status of programs and details of budgets in the communities. Subsequently, a second follow-up orientation was organised to teach participants on how to write RTI to local authority.		
AASK Orientation Program	338	Conducted at Azami Nagar Malvani, Azmi Nagar, Sathe Nagar and Ekta Nagar, the orientations aimed for the participants to understand ASK, its process and values as well as to motivate youth to become members of AASK for self and societal development. Topics, apart from the core values, included Right to Information, police and law, health and hygiene, gender education, sexual and reproductive health, zero waste management, etc.		
Program on Education System and its Impact on Youth	24	Conducted at Malvani Community in Malad on 15 August and organised by the ApnaAnubhav-Jwala, the session was on understanding the education system, the Right To Education bill, and the impact on youth and their future. It helped build understanding on RTE, today's education system, and how youth initiative will help to tackle problems related to education.		
Female Youth Group Formation	40	A group of female youth was formed and named "Jwala Female Youth Group" (members of Apna Anubhav). Members of the group have already elected two representatives. In this group, 10 female youth belongs to Malvani and minority community.		
Youth Festival	More than 60 youth	Conducted on 23-24 October at the YUVA Centre, the festival focused on the themes of Crime and Media. The participants actively joined in community rangoli, in preparing collage on crime and politics, and in group dancing. The youth came together and were impressed by the thought of social transformation.		
Street Theatre	25 youth (9 female, 16 male)	Conducted at 19-20 November at JJ Nursing Home in Malad, the objective of the workshop was for participants to understand the concept of street theatre. The youth learned how to identify topics and present it through street play. Learning dialogues, composition, direction and presentation also helped in their personal development.		
Songs of Movement Workshop	23 youth	Conducted on 16 January at YUVA Centre in Kharghar, the objective of the workshop was for participants to understand the concept of songs and its history. Song is considered a "media of awakening" the society and can be used effectively for social transformation.		
Basic Film Making Workshop	14 youth (3 female, 11 male)	Conducted on 21-25 January at YUVA Centre, the objective of the workshop was for the participants to understand the processes of making films and how this media can be used in presenting issues in the community.		

Village, and film screening of Bol were conducted during the year. Core group meetings of Apna Anubhav were also held. Table 9 presents the details of activities conducted.

Youth Forum Building activities include lobbying and advocacy initiatives for strengthening of the Maharashtra YUVA Parishad. A state level workshop was organised and a meeting with the Youth Minister was held. A public meeting on the People's Manifesto was also organised and a Voting Rights Campaign has been conducted. In addition, a Training of Trainers on Communalism is also in the works. Table 10 provides more details for each activity.



Street play on voter awareness campaign for BMC election

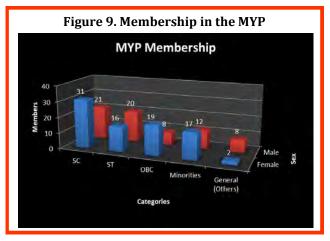
	Table 9: Details of Youth Exchange Activities				
Activity	Participants	Details			
Open Talk on Value of Volunteerism	25	Conducted at Yusuf Mehar Ali Centre on the occasion of International Volunteer Day on 8 May, Tara, ApnaAnubhav had meeting with ASK Co-ordinator Bharat Kale and Yesel Lee, Voluntary Service Overseas volunteer for an open talk on understanding the value of volunteerism and its need to be inculcated among the young people. This discussion was a catalyst for sharing the youth experience of volunteer work.			
Gujarat Exposure: SAATH's Youth Employability Programme (UMEED)	6 members of YUVA Urban	The purpose of this visit was to understand SAATH's interventions in skills development initiative and livelihood. SAATH's Youth Employability Programme (Umeed) imparts job specific skills to the youth. The programme has also taken on a special initiative to train disabled youth as well as provide vocational training and placement to youth from vulnerable families across Gujarat.			
Film Screening	32 youth	Conducted on 17 September, the film "Bol" was screened and watched by youth from Mankhurd, Mahim and Goregaon. The movie is based on the issue of gender. The screening's objective is to get information on the impact of religion on gender, the patriarchal system and its domination on women, and the society's perspective on the third gender.			
Exposure Visit: Sanjay Gandhi Sanctuary Park (Borivali)	20 youth	Conducted on 18 September, the exposure visit's purpose was to understand the ecology system and environment. The participating youth came from different slum communities of Mumbai and sub-urban areas like Mankhurd, Mahim, and Goregaon. With the help of games, topics on climate change and its impact on human beings and vice-versa were discussed.			
Exposure Visit: Kala Ghoda Festival	25 youth	Conducted on 9 February in Mumbai, the exposure visit in time with the festival aimed for the youth to understand the arts and environment, as well as get information on work and eco-friendly products of different NGOs.			
Exposure Visit: Jaitapur Village	6 Sathi-level youth	The visit was aimed at understanding the people's opinion on Jaitapur nuclear power plant. They found out that locals are very aggressively opposing the nuclear power plant project. The youth uncovered massive violation of human rights of local villagers and the need for their livelihood to be protected.			
Apna Anubhav Core Group (AACG) Meetings	AACG members	Three core meetings were organised by AACG to design and plan the ApnaAnubhav programmes in detail. They exchanged their experiences of community work. They also discussed and took stand on their roles during the municipal election.			

Table 10: Details of Youth Forum Building Activities					
Activity	Activity Participants Details				
State Level Workshop for MYP Members	10 youth	Conducted on 28-29 June at the YUVA Centre, the objective of the workshop was to get the MYP members together and dialogue on present status of MYP and future action planning at state level.			
Meeting with the Youth Minister	20 state level core group members	Meeting with Youth Minister Mr. Padmakar Walvi with demands of the Maharashtra Youth Policy and on proposal of organized jointly youth day program at Maharashtra level.			
Public Meeting on People's Manifesto	More than 1500 people	Conducted on 11 February at Mankhurd, the public meeting dubbed "Basti Ke Vikas ka Kya?" allowed the MYP to ask questions to candidates for the Municipal election of Mumbai. The candidate of each party presented a party manifesto and assured strategy and planning of community development if they won the municipal election.			
Voting Right Campaign	70 led and actively participated	The Maharashtra YUVA Parishad raised awareness through street play on voting right. They convinced people not to vote for candidates who are buying votes. They promoted slogans like Hum Hamare Vote NahiBechengeandspread the message that people should vote for the right candidate who is responsible for development of the community. The total outreach for the activity are 5000 people from M-Ward.			

This year, the final tally for membership in the MYP is 154. Of which, 85 are female and 69 are male. The breakdown of the membership based on categories is shown in Figure 9.

#### **Lessons Learnt**

During the course of implementation in this year, several lessons have been learnt. For instance, rapport building with parents helps to work easily with youth especially in the context of youth girls. Family support plays major and positive role to take youth leadership in any process and movement. Therefore, a sense of empathy to their family needs and problems must be felt or shown as it plays a vital role in strong bonding with youth and their family.



The importance of understanding the needs and interests of the youth and focusing on issues of the youth at individual or group level were also recognised in order to have more relevant and effective community interventions.

#### **Challenges Ahead**

E ven with the current achievements of the project, more remains to be done. However, some challenges are being foreseen to have a negative impact to the project's activities if not counter-acted on. For instance, there is an increasing need to develop the capacities and strategies while working with youth for effective output. Keeping a positive and healthy relationship with the family also poses a challenge in some sectors. Issues on timing for the working youth and facilitator and among youth participants result to lull in meeting and activities. The role of youth in event-based activities and encouraging a sense of youth ownership for the programs is also becoming more and more adamant.

# YUVA Units—Central

# Introduction

**Y**UVA Central unit has the mandate of i) ideology and value building within YUVA; ii) vision building; iii) strategizing for YUVA as a whole; and iv) synergy building across YUVA units by setting up of common financial, human resource, organisational development, and programme systems across all units. The office of the CEO is located within the YUVA Central unit. The CEO is supported by the Systems Director, the Accounts Team and the Administration Team. The programmatic aspects of YUVA Central unit are:

- A. YUVA Centre
- B. Information Resource Centre
- C. Project Facilitation

The YUVA Centre was set up in 2001 primarily as a space for facilitating collective learning both within and outside the organization. YUVA Centre is a composite of the Training Centre, which represents a learning space for imparting soft skills, YUVA Building Centre which is a hands-on practice space which imparts hard skills and reflects our value of respect for physical labour, and Bodhi (meaning 'to awaken') which is a rejuvenating space and the Social Welfare Complex.

# A. Training Centre

**R**eflecting the core values and principles related to human rights and empowerment of marginalised groups that YUVA represents, the Training Centre offers training programmes to address the needs of NGOs, CBOs and citizens. A place for collective learning, the YUVA Centre is well-equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure and resources. It also caters to groups that seek to utilize the space for their own training and residential programmes.

The facilities and services provided by the YUVA Centre include the training and workshop halls, accommodation, and amenities. The facilities and services are utilized internally, as in YUVA's activities, and externally, as in other groups' programmes.



YUVA Centre in Kharghar, Navi Mumbai

In terms of other groups, the combined NGOs and CBOs (55 and 2, respectively) had the highest number of centre usage which totalled to 57 programs conducted. This was followed by 18 programs from the corporate sector and 11 by funding organisations. This year, other institutions and government offices had 6 and 5 programmes, respectively. During this period, there were also 105 individual booking which were for the accommodation facilities.

# **B. Information Resource Centre**

The Information Resource Centre (IRC), comprised of a library and media unit, is a vital part of YUVA Centre and its commitment towards exploration, collation and dissemination of knowledge in its various forms. The IRC is committed in building perspective, knowledge and skills in various aspects of development work through various resources such as books, training materials, publications, and audio-visual materials, among others. These resources are accessed by children, students, social activists, local people and residents, development professionals, and YUVA staff.

#### i. YUVA Library

The library has evolved from catering to the needs of volunteers in the development sector and paraprofessionals to that of addressing needs of development professionals belonging to any sector. At present, the library contains about 8220 books in English and 2050 books in Hindi and Marathi. The media unit has about 425 films on various social issues such as housing rights, environment, gender, child abuse, education, etc.

Within this reporting period, books were used by the students of Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Nirmala Niketan, Jhunjhunwala College, and residential students in Kharghar, among others. Institutions and organisations such as the Tata Research Centre, Asha Ankur Organisation, Kendriya Vihar Society, and Anubhav Shiksha Kendra, also used the Library facilities as well as YUVA staff and individuals. This year 2358 books were



The YUVA Library holds a vast collection of books, other publications and films on development and social issues

used by children through CLC activities and 71 books were used by YUVA staff and others. There were also 27 films and magazines that were used from the Media Library.

#### ii. Media Unit

A ctivities of the IRC in terms of the Media Unit can basically be divided into four: 1) Archival; 2) Production; 3) Training Unit; and 4) Consultancy.

#### Archival

The Media Unit has a vast collection of photo CDs and video materials (in VHS, DV, VCD and DVD formats) from previous programmatic activities, advocacies and productions. Archival and storage of these materials for easy retrieval and use is one of the main activities of the media unit.

#### Productions

The media unit is responsible for producing video materials and documenting activities of the different projects of YUVA Central, YUVA Rural and YUVA Urban. In addition, the media unit is also making films and documentaries to raise awareness on issues in connection with YUVA's five core values of Social Justice, Gender Justice, Environmental Sustainability, Honesty and Integrity, and Secularism and Democracy. Table 11 shows the video productions of the Media Unit this year.

Table 11: Internal and External Video Productions for 2011-2012				
Production Title Description				
ASK Film	This is the documentation of an exposure visit to Ahemadabad, organised by Anubhav Shiksha, especially some youth have participated on a National level in this visit.			
Wada Na TodoThe film was made for advocacy purpose in Wada Na Todo Abhiyan to show that still there are some places in Maharashtra facing poverty.				
Bal Adhiveshan	Media unit has made a short film on a workshop held in Manori, Malad			
Garib Nagar Me Aag	On Friday 4th March 2011 a fire broke out in the Bandra East slum of Garib Nagar. This documen- tary shows the plight of the slum dwellers as they battle through this crisis.			
International World Water Day	On 22 March 2011, the International World Water Day, Mumbai's urban poor held a protest rally in Aazad Medan to raise the issues on water problems especially in the slums.			

In exploring different forms of media to more efficiently reach a greater number of people, the Media Unit has also been conducting film screenings and street plays. These are done so to further raise awareness in the communities, who are the most that are being affected by the issues being focused upon.

The Mumbai Development Plan, plight of migrant workers and informal labourers were highlighted in a series of screenings and street plays conducted in Mumbai and Navi Mumbai. The plays and screenings conducted in constructions sites resulted to a total outreach of 7300 people.



Street play on Mumbai Development Plan in Malad Malvani

## **Training Unit**

The media unit also provides trainings and workshops to build the capacities of population groups, especially the youth, and other organisations on the use of different media to further their campaigns and advocacies.

A "Basic Film Making Workshop" was organised by Youth Right from 21-25 January at the YUVA Centre. The workshop aimed at promoting the youth's interest in digital photography and encouraging youth hobby as well as developing the participatory process of sharing while promoting value-based social realities.

There were 12 youth from Mankhurd, Ghatkopar, Mandala, and other communities in Mumbai who have participated in this workshop. They have made a film based on issues of youth and technology and youth and career. Three screenings of the films were done in Mandala, Ekta Nagar, and Sathe Nagar, reaching 350 people. These two films have been uploaded on video sharing website YouTube.

In addition, the YUVA Media Unit has also collaborated with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) to intensify the campaign on the Right to Education (RTE) bill. The main objective of this campaign was to create awareness among Mumbaikars on the RTE bill, highlight the educational rights for children as provided for by the RTE bill, and increase the enrolment of students in the MCGM schools. Different street play groups, represented by 35-40 artists, in Mumbai were trained on RTE bill and development of scripts on how the issues are to be presented.

Series of trainings and workshops for folk media and street play artists were conducted in Wardha, Sevagram Ashram. The workshop provided technical support to enhance their skills on street plays and develop scripts on issues around child protection. A total of three workshops participated by 103 male and female folk and street play artists resulted to 15 scripts on child marriage, child labour and addiction, child health, gender discrimination, domestic violence, feticide, child trafficking and child prostitution. A total of 1350 people were reached in Wardha through village performances.

#### Consultancy

he IRC also provides media consulting services to external

organisations in the sector. The services are offered to local and international organisations working on issues of children, youth and women's rights. The Media Unit conducted trainings and workshops on folk media, theatre/ acting, street plays, and digital media.

Table 12 shows the consulting services YUVA IRC has provided to other organisations.

# **C. Projects**

**V**UVA Central acts as central facilitation unit for a number of projects in the state and national levels. At present, YUVA Central is facilitating and coordinating the following projects: South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People (SANDRP), and Anubhav Shiksha Kendra (ASK).



Participants for the basic film workshop are given hands-on production experience



The IRC Media Unit also holds film screenings to raise awareness on issues



Workshop with UNICEF for theatre, plays, folk and digital media

Table 12: Consultancy Services provided to external organizations					
External Organization	Type of Servies	Details			
Ragoonwala Foundation (India) Trust (RFIT)	Documentary Film Production	RFIT's objectives and work in Mumbai with women and children through the Community Centre was documented.			
YUVA Parivartan (Career Fair under the Umeed Project with PLAN India)	Short Film Production	The career fair conducted on 11-12 June presented newer sectors where the youth may find employment. An 18-minute short film was produced from the fair's proceedings. There were also 25 youth who participated on the Careers in Media session.			
Apanalaya	Acting Skills and Street Play Workshop	On 28-29 July, 32 youth from Rafiq Nagar, Govandi trained to develop their skills in acting and put forward issues of their slums through street play. At the end of the workshop, a play was organised which was later performed in the slums.			
Oxfam India (Grow Campaign)	Folk Media Training	YUVA Media unit was invited to train the folk media performers on 31 May for the presentation of the food rights issues. This was presented during the inauguration of the Grow Campaign on 1 June.			
Chehak Trust, Sahyog (Umang Programme)	Interactive Sessions on Media Skills Training	Conducted two trainings on 14 September (18 participants) and 28 December (16 participants), for girls and young women, aged 18-30, for careers in the social sector through complementing social work skills with English and computer proficiency. Focus was on media perspectives and social media training.			

## i. South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People (SANDRP)

S ANDRP is an informal network of organizations and individuals working on issues related with the water sector. YUVA has been working with SANDRP has a special focus on issues associated with large dams, mostly in India, but also includes South Asia regional issues.

#### **Activities and Outcomes**

n this year, SANDRP activities were continued to ensure greater democracy and concern for people and environment in India's Water Sector. Some of the noteworthy work during the year included advocacy for a more democratic process for formation of National Water Policy 2012 and participation in the 12th Plan working group report on Urban Water Sector. In addition, several collaborations were also carried out. These collaborations are with the following groups: tribal group in Thane to raise questions about the proposed controversial Kalu Dam; the people to be affected by the questionable proposal for Renuka Dam in Himachal Pradesh; the Save Ganga campaign; local groups in Pune to raise issues regarding environmentally destructive river channelisation in the city, among others.

In the international front, SANDRP was invited by the State Department of the United States government for a three-week visit to the US under the International Visitors Leadership Programme on Transboundary Water Resources Management. SANDRP was also invited by the German Government to an international conference on Water, Food and Energy security nexus in the context of Rio+20 meeting to happen in 2012. SANDRP was also invited by FIVAS, Norway (The Association for International Water and Forest Studies) to participate in a series of meetings to release their report on funding to destructive international dams (including in India) by the Norway Pension fund. A noteworthy event in this context was that the SANDRP advocacy against the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) wrong decision to allow Rampur Hydro Project as a Clean Development Mechanism project led to a meeting in Delhi with the eight-member Swedish delegation. Parineeta Dandekar of SANDRP was invited at the Stockholm Water Week in August to present her poster on the issue of a large number of big dams being constructed for Mumbai.

Another noteworthy success of SANDRP work during the year included functioning of the highest body of the Advisory Committee for consideration of techno-economic viability of Irrigation, Flood Control and Multipurpose Project Proposals that the Planning Commission depends on. The Advisory Committee, referred to as TAC, is a standing institutional arrangement chaired by the Secretary of the Union Ministry of Water Resources and serviced by the Central Water Commission. Following SANDRP advocacy to bring greater democracy into the functioning of this committee, the minutes of all the past meetings of the TAC were put in public domain during the year.

Among publications, the report "Water Options for India in a Changing Climate" was also published. The report was released by Baba Adhav, a well-known social worker of Maharashtra, and Mihir Shah, Planning Commission member, at a meeting in Pune on March 2012.

# ii. Anubhav Shiksha Kendra (ASK) Program **Central Facilitating Unit (CFU)**

C ince YUVA's inception, the organisation has been working on issues of youth—to restore, promote and defend their rights. YUVA continued to provide a platform for youth to be nurtured, motivated and contribute as much as they can for sustainable



Release of the "Water Options for India in a **Changing Climate**" report

social transformation through the Anubhav Shiksha Kendra Program (ASK).

YUVA Central unit is facilitating Anubhav Shiksha Kendra (ASK), a youth programme with the slogan of "Youth Development and Youth for Development". The facilitation is done by ASK-CFU. The basic aim of ASK is "to prepare and build capacities of young people who are willing and capable, for social engagement or the process of social transformation." ASK works on the premise that the youth are a source of immense energy and they possess the strength and courage to bring out necessary social changes in society. Therefore, ASK is targeting the student and nonstudent, employed and unemployed, and youths from different castes or class.

ASK is tapping their potential and attempting to build and internalize in youth the core values of Social Justice, Gender Justice, Ecological Justice, Honesty and Integrity, Secularism and Democracy and Dignity of Labour by involving them in building a democratic society without discrimination of religion, race or culture and free from exploitation. It tries to give a direction through five Strategic Interventions, namely:



Exposure visit activity organized by ASK-CFU

Cadre building among youth through the three levels of participation – Mitra (Concerned Citizen), Sahayogi (Change Agent) and Sathi (Leader). Any youth who comes in contact with the Anubhav Shiksha program will become at least a concerned citizen;

- Promotion and internalization of the core values;
- Building ownership among youth through the state youth forum building process;
- Creation of space for critical reflection and creative expression for the youth; and

Intensive capacity building of the youth as a means of selfsustenance.

The geographical scope of the programme includes 27 districts in the states of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. There are eight partner centres through which the Programme is implemented. These eight centres are located in seven organizations which have an experience and commitment of working with youth.

#### **Activities and Outcomes**

his year, the focus of activities was on reaching out to new youths and motivating them to join the ASK process. The process of change has followed the path of sensitisation, awareness, consultation, exposure, training, capacitation and social action. This has thus resulted in changing interpersonal roles and a higher level of participation within respective families and society. Through experiential learning, youth have internalised the core values of the Anubhav Shiksha program and are taking leadership in their personal and social life.

Each partner centre has conducted activities categorised under the three broad interventions—Youth Motivation, Youth Exchange, and Youth Forum Building. Activities were also conducted based on the three common themes— Governance, Livelihood and Sexuality. The total number of youth outreach and coverage of each partner centre is shown in Table 13.

During the April 2011-March 2012 reporting period, the CFU has facilitated the ASK process in 484 villages and 92 colleges of 73 blocks in 27 districts of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. In total, the Programme has reached out to 4,740 youth (37% female and 63% male). In addition, 40% of the participants and total outreach were from marginalised communities.

Table 13: Partner Centre, Geographic Coverage and Outreach of ASK Process				
Partner Centre	Geographical Coverage	Outreach		
Abhivyakti Anubhav: Abhivyakti Media for Development	Maharashtra: Nashik, Ahmadnagar, Nandurbar, Jalgaon and Dhule	840		
Anubhav Bharti: Dr. Ambedkar Sheti Vikas Va Sanshodhan Sanstha	Maharashtra: Pune, Solapur, Satara, Sangal and Kolhapur	856		
Anubhav Mumbai: Nirmala Niketan Institute, College of Social Work	Maharashtra: Mumbai Suburban	378		
Apna Anubhav: YUVA (Urban)	Maharashtra: Mumbai	441		
Samarthan Anubhav: Samarthan, Bhopal	Madya Pradesh: Sihor and Guna	605		
Vikas Anubhav: Vikas Sahyog Pratishthan	Maharashtra: Thane, Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg	595		
Yuva Anubhav Akola: YUVA (Rural)	Maharashtra: Akola, Amravati, Washim, Yavatmal, Buldhana	588		
Yuva Anubhav Nagpur: YUVA (Rural)	Maharashtra: Nagpur, Wardha, Gondhia, Gadhchiroli, Chandrapur	437		

The new phase of the programme began in April. This entails the process of agreements with the funding organisations and contracting with the partner centres. It also involved setting up systems. YUVA-CFU has coordinated the program and brought the vibrancy by building capacity for better coordination and organisation development. In the reporting period, CFU has carried out the following activities:

#### ASK Planning, Learning and Review Meeting

**Y**UVA-CFU organised two planning, learning and reviews meetings at Dongargaon, Solapur in June and at YUVA Centre on October. In these two-day meetings, all the partner organisations were in attendance, represented by the Head of the Institution and the Program Coordinator and Facilitator. In the first meeting, YUVA-CFU shared the new project proposal of ASK along with the budget. Partners discussed the important aspects and planned the implementation mechanism with new roles and responsibilities. In the second meeting, the reports for the first six months were shared and members have critically reflected on the progress as they learn from each other's experiences. For both meetings, all the partner centres shared their action plans for the next six months and also decided on some common programs among ASK partners. Brief reports of the meetings were prepared and shared with all the partners.

#### FCRA Training Program for ASK Partners

n the context of the new Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), ASK-CFU has conducted one training program for ASK partners to understand the new FCRA and equip the CFU for the same.

#### Training Program on Youth in Governance

The CFU organised a two-day training program on Youth in Governance at YUVA Centre on February. Each partner from Maharashtra has nominated their Sathi-level youth who is willing to work with governance processes. Retired Block Development Officer, Deputy Sarpanch of Gram Panchyat, Researcher and Senior Activists were the resource persons for the training program. During the training, all the participants went for an exposure visit to local Gram Panchayat office. Apart from



Participants and resource persons simulate FCRA tasks during the workshop

capacitating the youth, the training programme also resulted in more visibility of the ASK Programme through the regional newspaper. A brief report of the training was prepared and shared with all the partners.



Inter-state exposure visit to Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh

#### Inter-State Exposure Visit

**Y**UVA-CFU organised a three-day interstate exposure visit to Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh on March. The purpose of the inter-state exposure visit was to provide an opportunity to interact with youth from other states and also expose the youth leaders to the relevant development processes. A coordinator or facilitator and two Sathi-level youth, totalling 22 participants (13 male and nine (9) female), joined from each of the regional centres. The main focus of the exposure visit was promotion of livelihood opportunities through recycling and reusing waste materials. There were also discussions on organisational functioning through interactions with organisational directors, activists, volunteers, local youth and communities.

#### Follow-up on Maharashtra State Youth Policy

A SK has continuously followed-up with State Government mechanism on State Youth Policy. In July, one more representation to the Chief Minister and Youth Minister of the State was sent. ASK-CFU engaged in advocating and lobbying with the state government till they publicly declare the youth policy. Now, there is high level of pressure on government from other civil organisations and political parties. Hence, there is possibility that the state government will publicly declare the youth policy.



Forum Building

or the purpose of building the strong youth forum, ASK have conducted two state level meetings of youth forum. This has helped them to consolidate the state process and build the

Discussions with the State Youth Minister to lobby for State Youth Policy

vibrancy among them. Along with this, a meeting of ASK Coordinators and Facilitators was conducted to facilitate the Coordinators and Facilitators Forum and to strengthen the programme. Through this meeting, inputs were given to ASK Coordinators and Facilitators about writing case studies and consolidated reports on activities of the programme. In another meeting, ASK-CFU has provided inputs to ASK Coordinators and Facilitators about youth mobilisation. Through the forum, ASK have provided an opportunity to share experiences and learn new ideas to work collectively on the common programmes.

#### Monitoring and Coordination

A SK-CFU has compiled six monthly Programmatic and Financial reports for the period of Jan to March 2011 and April to September. As part of monitoring and coordination, the ASK- CFU Coordinator visited six partner organisations within the entire year. With the regular coordination, the project activities were streamlined.

#### **Exploration and Networking Activities**

The ASK-CFU Coordinator is part of Pravah, New Delhi organisation's OID program, wherein skills are being developed to facilitate the Youth Right program effectively. This event has been instrumental to develop good relations with other youth leadership development organisations in India. Further, State Youth Policy advocacy and lobbying efforts are also being optimised as an opportunity to network and to explore further possibilities.

#### **Lessons Learnt**

**N** eed-based programs make the difference in the youth's participation and engagement in community interventions. If the youth is participating continuously in the program, then their involvement remains very high and they will be providing worthwhile contributions. In addition, if the youth were made aware (provided space for action) about the various government schemes and laws applicable to them, then they make note of these and work hard towards getting benefited.

Alternative Media-related skills programs—such as street play, song for movement, wall paper making and film making—are getting selective but solid response. This makes them realise their potential and roles by using creative means. It results to youth getting deeply involved where creativity is required.



Ms. Santoshi Tiwari, Anubhav Shiksha Program Coordinator of Samarthan, Bhopal, receives the National Youth Award 2012 from Mr. Ajay Maken, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports

# Anubhav Shiksha Kendra Program: Future Direction

As the ASK Programme moves forward in reaching more youth and engaging them in the process of social transformation, the ASK-CFU and the partners have identified the following future direction:

- There is a large amount of knowledge and experience with each partner centre. These need to be shared across centres and has to be facilitated through inter-cluster exchange and learning.
- Exploring newer areas of intervention, like youth and climate change, youth and sports, and youth and career, are important and needs to be focused on during the next phase.
- Young women's participation is critical in the program. Hence, ASK continues to focus the work on increasing women youth outreach.
- Capacity building of coordinators and youth facilitators needs to be done on thematic areas and on processes and skills. The capacity building support can be given in the form of information dissemination, exposure visits, workshops and training.

# **Credibility Alliance**

1	Identity	
a)	Principle: The organization should exist and be registered existence	✓
i)	The organization has been functioning for a minimum of three years from the date of registration	As per disclosure no. 1
ii)	The physical address given by the organization is verifiable	As per disclosure no. 2
b)	Legal Status	
i)	The organization is registered as a Trust/Society or Section 25 Company.	As per disclosure no. 3
ii)	Registration documents of the organization are available on request	1
iii)	Statutory certificates under the IT Act, FCRA and any other relevant central and state laws, where applicable, have been renewed and revalidated as per rules.	*
2	Aims, Objectives and Achievements	
a)	Objectives	
	The organization has a defined aim/purpose and a set of objectives.	1
b)	Impact/ Achievement/ Output/ Performance	
	The organization is able to show performance through defined indicators against stated objectives	1
3	Governance	
i)	The organization has a governing body by whatever name called, which is legally accountable and should consist of a minimum of three members.	*
ii)	Not more than half the Governing Body members should have remunerated roles in whatever capacity. No board member(s) should derive any benefit from the VO either directly or through any <u>entities</u> in which the Governing body member(s) have significant interest. Also, the remuneration of GB members should be reasonable.	As per disclosure no. 6
iii)	The Board has at least two meetings a year suitably spaced with quorum stipulated in its own rules or regulations, but not less than one-third of the number of members in the governing body	Four Board Meetings were held this year. 🖌
iv)	Minutes of the Board meetings are documented and circulated.	1
v)	The Governing body approves/recommends programmes, budgets, annual activity reports and audited financial statements.	×
vi)	The Board ensures the organization's compliance with applicable laws and statutory regulations of the country and the state concerned	×
vii)	The organization, if it has a membership beyond the governing body (including a VO registered under Societies Registration Act or Section 25 of Companies Act), has an annual general meeting of all members which considers and approves audited financial statements and the annual report.	Annual General Meeting was held
ix)	The minutes of the general meeting are documented and circulated.	1

# Norms for Good Governance and Public Disclosure

4	Operations	
a)	Programme	
	Activities are in line with the aim and objectives/purpose of the organization	*
b)	Management	
i)	The organization periodically reviews progress of programmes.	1
ii)	The accounts of the organization are regularly maintained and those with an annual income above Rs. 50,000/- are audited by a chartered accountant	As per disclosure no. 5
c)	Human Resources	
	All paid personnel including paid volunteers are issued letters of contract/ appointment	*
	An appropriate Personnel Policy is in place.	*
5	Accountability and Transparency	
a)	Accountability	
	Signed audited statements of three years are available: balance sheet, income and expenditure statement, receipts and payments account, schedules to these, notes on accounts and the statutory auditor's report.	~
	Statement of accounts indicates whether constructed on a cash or accrual basis.	Accounts are maintained on accrual basis
	There are no serious adverse notes on any material point.	*
	There are no material transactions involving conflict of interest between a Board/staff member and the organization.	*
	Utilization certificates, where required by the terms of a grant, are given in time, and any default or deficiency is adequately explained.	*
b)	Transparency	
	The organization's Annual Report is distributed OR communicated to ALL stakeholders including members, donors, staff, regulatory authorities, beneficiaries and Credibility Alliance, and is made available on request every year, within eight months of the end of the organization's financial year.	*
	The Annual Report contains a description of the main activities, a review of the progress and results achieved in the year; and information on the Board member's names, position in the Board, remuneration or reimbursement and should contain brief financial details including the main heads of receipts, sources of revenues and main heads of expenditure – programme expenditure, administration, fundraising expenses etc."	

# **Disclosures as per Credibility Alliance Norms**

# 1. Origin and brief History of the Organization

Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action is a registered voluntary development organisation taking up issues of the poor and the marginalised in urban and rural areas. We are a non-profit making organisation funded by external and Indian funding organisations as well as Government of India, Government of Maharashtra, other governmental bodies and UN agencies.

YUVA was founded in 1984 when a group of students and lecturers from Nirmala Niketan, College of Social work got together with other like minded people with the vision of the creation of cities that are just, equitable and sustainable.

YUVA's mission is "to empower the oppressed and the marginalized by facilitating their organizations and institutions towards building equal partnerships in the development process ensuring the fulfilment of their human right to live in security, peace and dignity. 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 group, academic institutions and the private sector to enable and strengthen the people's empowerment processes".

Since inception, YUVA has consciously chosen to implement its development agenda by engaging with local, community based organizations. This has involved strengthening existing organizations to understand and respond effectively to the local development issues, and encouraging new formations – such as community action groups, groups of women, youth, children and informal sector workers – to engage in development. YUVA has its direct interventions in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai and Nagpur.

YUVA is accredited as an NGO with general consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UNECOSOC).

#### 2. Registered Address

YUVA: Youth for Unity and voluntary Action, YUVA Centre, Plot No. 23, Sector VII, Kharghar, Navi Mumbai 410210 Telephone: +91-22-27740970 / 80 / 90

#### 3. Status of 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 12 A of the Income Tax Act (ITA) INS/24339/ 7 May 1985 from inception
- Registered under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) No. 83850025.
- YUVA enjoys recognition under section 80G of the Income Tax Act.

#### 4. Name and Address of Main Bankers

- Standard Chartered Bank Ltd, Fort Branch, Mumbai
- ICICI Bank Ltd, Shalimar Bagh Branch, Delhi
- ICICI Bank Ltd, Civil Lines Branch, Nagpur
- Axis Bank Ltd, Kharghar Branch, Navi Mumbai
- State Bank of India, Ramdas Peth Branch, Nagpur
- Corporation Bank Ltd, Kharghar Branch, Navi Mumbai

# 5. Name and Address of Auditors

M/s Contractor, Nayak & Kishnadwala, Chartered Accountants, Jash Chambers, 3rd floor, 7-A, Sir P. Mehta Road, Fort, Mumbai 400 001

## 6. Remuneration and reimbursements to Board members/Trustees/Shareholders

Rs. 30,000/ paid to Ms. Berna Lysa John, Member of Governing Board towards writing of report.

## 7. The Governing Board

First & Middle Name(s)	Last / Family Name(s)	Occupation	Country of Residence
Mr. Amitabh	Behar	Social Researcher Co-Chair, GCAP Convener, WNTA	India
Mr. Dominic Marian	D'souza	Associate Director, LAYA Executive Committee Member, ASPBAE	India
Ms. Berna Lysa	John	Development Consultant	India
Dr. Helen	Joseph	Associate Professor, College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan Institute	India
Ms. Kavitha	Krishnamoorthy	Development Professional,	India
Dr. Lata	Narayan	Faculty, Tata Institute of Social Sciences,	India
Dr. Denzil	Saldanha	Retired Professor - Unit of Sociology of Education, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, P.B. No. 8313 Deonar, Mumbai	India
Mr. Gagan	Sethi	OD Consultant and Trustee, Janvikas	India
Ms. Archana	Shrivastava	Independent Trainer, Researcher and Consultant. Accredited by Indian Society for Applied Behavioural Science (ISABS) as process facilitator for human interactions.	India

The YUVA Governing Board for 2011-2012 has nine (9) members and was elected on 29 August 2010. The profile of the Governing Board Members are as follows:

#### Kavitha Krishnamoorthy—President

Kavitha Krishnamoorthy has vast experience on child rights and was formerly Director of YUVA's urban programmes. A Masters in Social Work, she is today based in Bangalore, where she has initiated an organisation Kilikili which works on Inclusive Play: children of all abilities playing together.

#### Dr. Helen Joseph—Secretary

Dr. Helen Joseph is currently Associate Professor at the College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan. She is a member of the Board of Studies in Social Work at the University of Mumbai; Core Group Resource Person and Member of the University Grants Commission's (UGC) National Consultative committee for Capacity Building of Women Managers in Higher Education and member of the Board of Directors, YUVA Urban Initiatives. She is a member of the Ethics committee of KEM and Hinduja hospitals and on the Committee Against Sexual Harassment of the IDBI Bank. She is the Coordinator of the International Exchange Programme at the College of Social Work and the Coordinator for the on-line course on Peace Education for the Global Campus Programme, which is run in collaboration with the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. She was also the founder Director of Salokha, a centre set up by the College of Social Work to work on the issue of communal harmony. She has several articles and research studies to her credit.

#### Archana Shrivastava—Treasurer

Archana Shrivastava is an independent Trainer, Researcher & Consultant. Her competency areas are Advocacy and Policy related work, Networking & Partnership building, Training and capacity building, Program Development and management, Research and Evaluation and Organization development (OD) process facilitation. She has worked extensively to promote and ensure rights of various population groups such as children, women, slums and pavement dwellers, disaster victims, unorganized labourers and persons with disabilities. She also specializes in qualitative research through PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal) ensuring community participation in information collection, situation analysis and people's planning processes. She has been accredited by Indian Society for Applied Behavioural Science (ISABS) as process facilitator for human interactions.

#### Berna Lysa John—Member

Lysa has worked on issues of governance accountability and social justice across the last fourteen years. After her post-graduation in Social Work, she worked with YUVA on issues of urban poverty, governance, housing and women's rights for a period of 08 years. She left the organization in 2006 in the capacity of Executive Director.

Following this, she worked with 'Wada Na Todo Abhiyan' as National Campaign Coordinator - helping to create what is now one of India's largest advocacy networks. The campaign focuses on monitoring government initiatives and enabling people, particularly women, young people and traditionally excluded communities to engage with policy makers and governance institutions at the highest level.

In 2009, Lysa took on the role of International Campaign Director with the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP). In this period, she has worked with civil society organizations across 80+ countries to find new and effective ways to hold governments accountable to address the structural causes of poverty and inequality.

Lysa moved on from her role in GCAP in March 2012 and is currently pursuing a PhD program at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences. She is based in Mumbai and can be reached at lysa.john@gmail.com.

#### Dominic D'souza—Member

Dominic D'souza is Associate Director of LAYA. He is also founder member of YUVA. He succeeded Minar Pimple in the capacity of Change Manager and held on to this responsibility to facilitate and integrate managerial operations in the light of changed leadership scenario. He is the chairperson of YUVA (Rural) Association.

#### Dr. Lata Narayan—Member

Dr. Narayan is an Associate Professor and Chairperson of the Centre for Equity for Women, Children and Families, School of Social Work, at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, She holds a PhD in Social Work from Mumbai University, Member of the University Grants Commission's (UGC) National Consultative Committee for Capacity Building of Women Managers in Higher Education. She is also a member of the Governing Boards of LAYA and Meljol, which are both social organisations. She is the Chairperson of YUVA Urban Initiatives and also Director of YUVA Consulting.

#### Gagan Sethi—Member

Gagan Sethi was the Founder Managing Trustee of Janvikas, an Ahmedabad-based Training and Support and incubating Organisation and currently is its Chair. He is also the current chair of DALIT FOUNDATION, Navsarjan and the Human and Institutional Forum(HIDF) also the Vice President of Centre for Social Justice and Sahjeevan (an Environment Organisation in Kutch, Gujarat). He holds a Masters Degree in Social Work from Maharaja Sayaji Rao University, Baroda, and is a recognised OD consultant and Leadership and Governance trainer. He is also Director of YUVA Consulting and on several diverse boards of non profits like KMVS, DRISHTI, South Asia Women's Fund, Nirantar, Wassan to name a few.

#### Dr. Denzil Saldanha—Member

Dr. Saldanha was a Professor at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. His research interests have been in the areas of social movements; voluntary social action groups and development organizations; elementary, nonformal and adult education. In the past three decades, he has been teaching, researching and contributing to policy in these areas, especially in the field of adult education. He has served as a member the Executive Committee of the Indian National Literacy Mission Authority and the 10th and 11th Plan sub-committees. He has worked as a consultant to the government, funding agencies, and bi-lateral and multi-lateral institutions. His publications cover the interest areas mentioned.

#### Amitabh Behar—Member

Amitabh Behar is the Executive Director of the National Foundation for India and the Global Co-Chair of the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP). He is also the National Convener of the Wada Na Todo Abhiyan and the coconvener of the National Social Watch Coalition. A political scientist by training, Mr. Behar has done extensive research on governance and civil society, especially decentralized rural self-governance and social movements in central India. He has earlier worked with the Ford Foundation and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

# A. Governance

YUVA has a two-tier governance structure comprising of a General Body and a Governing Board.

# **General Body**

The General Body of YUVA comprises eminent academicians, social work professionals, and development practitioners with a range of thematic expertise and skills which adds value to the organization in terms of conceptual thinking. The General Body of YUVA has 58% representation of women. They deliberate on the overall positioning of YUVA in the development context and give suggestions for future directions. The General Body is the key policy-making body of YUVA. There are clearly-defined guiding principles for the General Body members of YUVA.

# **Governing Board**

The YUVA Governing Board has a key role in upholding the organization's values and has the ultimate authority for guiding the organization and to ensure that the objectives of the organization are being achieved. The Governing Board plays a proactive role by conducting regular meetings, raising pertinent questions related to the strategies adopted, develops succession plans, and reviews the budgets. The YUVA Governing Board consists of distinguished academicians and social work professionals who bring their diverse skills and experiences to the governance of YUVA.

# **B. Management Systems and Procedures**

**V**UVA has well-defined procedures and systems for ensuring effective management and implementation of programmes. YUVA has intraunit management system and an overall management system which aims to strengthen and support the core functional areas of YUVA.

Each unit has a management team which has three-pronged functions of programme development, organizational development (strategic planning; monitoring and evaluation; communicat ions), and human resource development (recruitment, training and capacity building, staff appraisal) for the respective unit. To focus specifically on the Programmes, there are Programme Management Teams which are comprised of Programme and Project Coordinators.

The Programme Management Teams discuss, review and develop the agenda of the programme and/or projects. They also review the finances of the programmes and/or projects.

# i) Overall Management System

#### The Directors' Forum

The Director's Forum is the apex management team of YUVA. The CEO of YUVA Collective, Programme Director of YUVA Urban, Executive Director of YUVA Rural, and Systems Director constitute the Director's Forum. The Director's Forum functions as the Secretariat of YUVA Board and plays the role of planning and implementing the Board's decisions.

The Directors' Forum is responsible for knowledge sharing between units, convergence between themes and programmes, developing common systems and policies, and making decisions regarding YUVA's representation in external fora. The Director's Forum meets prior to the Board meetings and additional meetings are held as and when required.

# ii) Other Fora within the Organization

A part from the various management fora, there are other fora within the organization which have been constituted to support the staff and to create a conducive and lively work environment. Information regarding these fora have been given below:

# Committee against Sexual Harassment at Work Place

Keeping in view the Supreme Court Judgment and Guidelines issued in 1997 to provide for the effective enforcement of Gender Equality and Guarantee against Sexual Harassment and Abuse, more particularly against sexual harassment at work place, YUVA has constituted a four-member Committee Against Sexual Harassment (CASH) at work place. CASH includes an external legal expert.

## **Gender Committee**

he Gender Committee is mandated to look into ways of sustaining women leadership within YUVA and to mainstream gender in YUVA's programmes.

# YUVA Sahayog

**Y**UVA Sahyog is a system that evolved in YUVA, through which the staff volunteer to part with at least 1% of their respective gross monthly wages as financial assistance to social activists and people's organizations engaged in development. This system is not an official contribution of YUVA but a collective and personal contribution of personnel in YUVA as financial assistance to activists in crisis situation, people's organizations in need of support to establish income generating activities, support to people centered development campaigns. YUVA Sahyog is not so much a gesture in charity as much as it is recognition that a token monetary assistance will support an activist or a people's campaign to contribute to the betterment of society.

# Self Help Groups

There are two Self Help Groups comprising of YUVA staff, one in Mumbai and one in Nagpur. The objective of the Self Help Groups is to provide credit to YUVA employees at low rate of interest in case of their need and to encourage savings within YUVA employees. Loans for the purpose of education, health, house purchase and repair, repayment of loan taken at higher rate of interest, and purchase of domestic appliances are given priority. Each Self Help Group has a General Body. The General Body elects the Managing Committee for the Self Help Group.

# **Chehek Mehak**

Chehek Mehak is a forum only for women employees of YUVA. This forum has been constituted so that there is a support system for women employees within the organization. In this forum, female employees of YUVA share the challenges which they face pertaining to work-life balance.

# **Dinchak Committee**

Dinchak Committee organizes picnics, farewells, welcome events for new members, cultural programmes, birthdays, etc.

# **Human Resources**

# i) Staff Policy

**V**UVA has a well-documented staff policy and a manual of procedures. All staff are covered under Mediclaim Insurance Policy and Personal Accident Policy. Maternity and paternity leave is applicable to all staff irrespective of their category.

# ii) Performance Appraisal

A bi-annual Performance Appraisal System is being followed in YUVA. Every year in the month of September, the Interim Performance Appraisal is carried out while the annual performance appraisal is done is March. On the basis of performance appraisal, performance letters are issued which indicate strengths, limitations, scope for improvement, and training needs, if any.

## iii) Staff Training and Development

The emphasis on staff training and development is rooted in YUVA's belief that people are the most important and valuable assets in any organisation and it is important to preserve and provide for the growth and development of people in the organisation. This, in turn, reflects positively in the work of the organisation externally. During the past year, YUVA has encouraged its staff to attend various academic courses and training programmes.

# iv) YUVA Staff as of 31st March 2012

YUVA Urban		YUVA Rural		YUVA Central
Director-Program	Social Transformation	<b>Executive Director</b>	CCC Parli	Director-Systems
Rajendra Bhise	Women Rights	Datta Patil	Dr. Prakash Lalwani	Dilip Bhadarge
Habitat	Shilpa Kashelkar	Natural Resource Manage-	Santosh Motegaonkar	<b>Senior Adviser</b> K.S. Baroi, IAS Retd.
Maju Varghese	Pramila Sharma	ment and Livelihood Team	-	Programme
Sitaram Shelar	Yashoda P	Nitin Mate	Arun Mane	Anil Ingale
Aravind Unni	Youth Rights	Aarti Pankhraj	Dhamma Bansode	Bharat Kale
Shilpi Syal	Bhagwan Keshbat	Suresh Lule	Daya Gavit	Charushila Pawar
Suryakant More	Ravindra Pednekar	Ravikumar Bagde	Usharani Kamble	Himanshu Thakkar
Raju Vanjare	Neetu Singh	Rajendra Satfale		Parineeta Dandekar
Mohan Chavan	Child Rights	Nirmal Bhele		Gajesh Gaur
Sumati Beladi	Arokia Mary	Sanghapal Wahurwagh		Accounts and Finance
Jagdish Patankar	Rajesh Bhatkar	Samta Paik		Pallavi Sawardekar
Jitendra Borday	Husna Khan	Arvind Khadse		Neelima Mahadik
Shailendra Wasnik	Dinesh Mishra	Governance and Human Rights Team		Shailendra Mandaokar
Informal	Zohra Shaikh	Diwakar Deshmukh		Pratik Paliya
Mecanzy Dabre	Stephen Arockia	Gauri Deshpande		Nitin Silekar
Teresa Benedict	Jaisingh Randive	-		Poonam Dhotre
Gopal Dubey	Tasleem Khan	Gender and other Forms of Social Discrimination Team		Administration
Dipashri Khade		Ivoti Nagovlvov		Prema Marquis
Sanjay Kamble		Jyoti Nagarkar Madhuri Khadse		Sanjay Chaturvedi
Nagesh Pednekar		Maunum Knause		Rajendra Chavan
Simrin Makhija		Vanita Adhao		Dakshata Vhawal
Shanta Khot		Vibhavari Pandhare		Prashant Chavan
Urmila Bagde		Yogita Sathwane		Neeta Khedekar
Monika Bankar		Bhawana Nagdeve		litendra Ghate
		Varsha Hatwar		Amol Dongre
				million Dolligie

Sangita Abhyankar

# **Funding and Support Partners**

#### Funding and Support Partners for 2011-2012

(In alphabetical order)

- ASTHA
- Amnesty International
- Community for Reconciliation
- Dignity International
- Ford Foundation
- Friedrich Ebert Foundation
- Jamshetji Tata Trust
- Janvikas
- Katholische Zentralstelle Fur Entwicklungshilfe E.V
- Karnataka Health Promotion Council
- LAYA
- MSAMB CAIM Program PMU Amravati
- Oxfam India
- Oxfam (India) Trust
- Oxfam GB
- Plan International (India Chapter)
- Rooftops, Canada/ Abri International
- Swedish Society For Nature Conservation
- SWISSAID, Swiss Foundation for Development Cooperation
- State Bank of India
- GCAP Global Foundation
- Terre des Hommes
- UNICEF

# **Financial Statements**

#### **GENERAL COMMENTS**

- 1. The total income during the period 2011-2012 was Rs. 3,64,06,240 and the expenditure against this was 3,63,18,722. The total utilization during this period was 99.76%.
- 2. There has been a 7.03% increase in income over the previous year
- 3. The Top 5 Donors of YUVA are as follows:

Top Five Donors for 2010-20111 and 2011-2012					
Top Five Donors in 2010-2011	Amount in Rs. ( Lacs)	Top Five Donors in 2011-2012	Amount in Rs. ( Lacs)		
OXFAM INDIA	142.62	OXFAM INDIA	69.75		
KATHOLISCHE ZENTRALSTELLE FUR ENTWICKKLUNGSHILFE E.V.	48.78	KATHOLISCHE ZENTRALSTELLE FUR ENTWICKKLUNGSHILFE E.V.	60.20		
SWISSAID	32.83	PLAN INTERNATIONAL (INDIA CHAPTER)	46.16		
OXFAM (INDIA)TRUST	31.99	OXFAM (INDIA)TRUST	34.75		
PLAN INTERNATIONAL (INDIA CHAPTER)	19.75	FORD FOUNDATION	28.40		

- 4. YUVA's sources of income are as follows:
  - Grants from donor and support organizations, bilateral aid agencies, and state government including its bodies.
  - Interest
  - Donations from individuals and trusts
  - Community Contribution
  - Publications
  - Income from Training Centre/Programs
- 5. Summarized Balance Sheet for 2011-2012

	Amounts in Rs.			Amounts in Rs.	
LIABILITIES	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2011	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2012	ASSETS	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2011	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2012
TRUST FUNDS OR CORPUS	33070520	33663353	IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES	13249821	12368965
OTHER EARMARKED FUNDS	5205973	6059984	MOVABLE PROPERTIES	3139412	3051575
CURRENT LIABILITIES	952541	1537486	INVESTMENTS	632573	114893
			ADVANCES	1062948	1180640
			CASH AND BANK BALANCES	2161356	3377551
			INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT	18982925	21167199
Total	39229034	41260823	Total	39229034	41260823

#### SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### A. BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

- 1. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles in India and the applicable Accounting Standards issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.
- 2. All Income and Expenditure items in the financial statement are recognised on accrual basis.

#### **B. FIXED ASSETS**

- Fixed assets acquired out of the amounts received from funding agencies towards specific projects are charged to the relevant project. The cost of acquisition of the asset is also taken to the fixed asset schedule by correspondingly crediting the corpus, as these assets are eventually available for the use of the Institution for carrying out its objects.
- Immovable properties, Furniture & Fixtures are stated at their written down value after charging depreciation as stated below.

#### **C. DEPRECIATION**

- a) Depreciation on fixed assets is provided under the Written Down Value Method and at the rates prescribed in the Income Tax Act, 1961
- b) Depreciation on fixed assets has been charged to the Income and Expenditure Account

#### **D. INVESTMENT**

Current Investments of the trust comprise of Fixed Deposits with Bank

#### **E. INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS**

Incomes from investments are credited to the Income & Expenditure Account or to the earmarked fund as the case may be.

#### **F. GRATUITY**

Liability in respect of gratuity to employees is provided by means of annual contribution under the group gratuity scheme of the Life Insurance Corporation of India.

**G.** Figures have been rounded off to the nearest rupee.

Secretary

**H.** Previous year's balances have been regrouped wherever necessary to make them more comparable with this of the current year

For Contractor, Nayak and Kishnadwala Chartered Accountants ICAI Firm Registration No. 101961W

> Shariq Contractor Partner Reg.No. 33644.

President

Treasurer

Place: Mumbai

Date:

# Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action

# **Registered Office:**

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# **Field Office:**

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