



# Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA) Annual Report 2015-16



YUVA Centre,  
Plot No- 23, Sector- 7, Kharghar, Navi Mumbai- 410210  
Maharashtra, India.  
Telefax: 91-22-27740970 / 80 / 90  
Email: [info@yuvaindia.org](mailto:info@yuvaindia.org)  
Website: [www.yuvaindia.org](http://www.yuvaindia.org)

# Contents



1. President’s Address .....	3
2. History of YUVA .....	4
3. Mission, Vision, Core Values and Core Purpose .....	6
4. Eleven Levels of Intervention .....	7
5. Our Approach .....	8
6. Right to the City .....	9
7. YUVA’s Units.....	10
• YUVA Urban .....	10
• YUVA Rural .....	10
• YUVA Central .....	10
8. YUVA Urban.....	11
• Empowerment of and Advocacy for the Urban Poor .....	11
I. Right to Habitat .....	11
• Empowerment of and Advocacy with Informal Sector Workers .....	14
I. Advocacy, Implementation and Monitoring of Right to Food .....	14
II. Work with Street Vendors Across India .....	15
• Women’s Empowerment .....	17
• Children and Youth .....	18
I. Children .....	18
II. Youth .....	22
9. YUVA Rural .....	26
10. YUVA Central .....	27
11. Campaigns and Networks .....	29
12. Engagement in Habitat III .....	32



# President's Address

Last year was crucial to all of humankind. We made landmark decisions regarding climate change and sustainable development. The COP21 meeting in Paris was in a way a culmination of decades of work by NGOs and government bodies, seeking to build upon the foundation that is the Kyoto Protocol. It is increasingly clear that the only way to combat catastrophic climate change is for every nation in the world to come together and set ambitious targets to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> levels in the atmosphere. The effects of climate change are already a source of major distress in the Indian subcontinent and we encourage the elected government to take ambitious efforts to combat this existential threat.

While climate change represents our struggle to survive, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent our aspirations for a better life itself. The timeline to achieve the Millennium Development Goals ended last year and we were in many ways away from attaining them. YUVA has always pushed for more inclusive and widespread development for all of the citizens of this country. This is why the SDGs, adopted in 2015, are crucial to provide a framework and spur action by countries around the world to achieve them.

Over the last year, YUVA has worked with stakeholders at different levels. We have aided individuals and communities to exercise their rights and gain access to resources. We have worked with multiple government agencies to ensure smooth functioning of policies and schemes. Our work on various movements, particularly, 'Right to the City' and 'Hamara Shehar Mumbai' has been based on mobilisation of various organisations and communities. We have had a plethora of opportunities to discuss our learning and views at national and international forums. Interaction at so many levels is humbling. It often makes us realise that the road we have taken is challenging but the prospect of a better future, keeps the momentum going.

YUVA has made significant strides by its engagement in many novel programmes. We launched, 'Diploma in Youth Development and Social Change' in 2015 along with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, to enable people interested in working with youth build perspective and get a hands-on experience. Our work on informal workers' rights to livelihood and habitat are ongoing in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai and other cities. Our advocacy and capacity building work with regard to Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vendors Act has been quite effective as well.

Our work is indeed challenging but the promise of a better future is luring YUVA to strive for the better. We look forward to all that the year has to offer and present to you our Annual Report 2015-16.

In solidarity,  
Amitabh Behar,  
President, YUVA

# History of YUVA



**Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action**, known as YUVA, formally came into existence in the year 1984. Its roots can be traced to a youth placement project that began in 1978 at Bombay's College of Social Work at Nirmala Niketan. It started as a voluntary development organisation with the purpose of supporting and empowering the oppressed and the marginalised.

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

Till 1991, YUVA mainly concentrated on rights. It was post-1991 and the introduction of the New Economic Policy that YUVA felt the need to start focusing on rights as well as assets. YUVA realised that it had to protect and expand on existing rights, and facilitate the creation of new rights. Similarly, it had to protect and enhance existing assets and add value to them. YUVA started expanding its operations to look at various constituency groups including the marginalised and oppressed men, women, youth and children in the urban as well as the rural areas; and the seeds of the various units of YUVA were sown. In 2001, four formal entities came into being:

YUVA Urban, YUVA Rural, YUVA Centre and YUVA Consulting

YUVA is continuing to work with the human rights paradigm forming the underlying philosophy of the organisation, focusing on three different areas.



## POVERTY

Poverty is seen as a violation of human rights and is multidimensional caused by a number of interlinked factors and hence must be addressed in a holistic and integrated manner.



## ENVIRONMENT

The concept of environment includes both the natural environment and human/social environment. This theme focuses on issues of quality, equity and sustainability in relation to the development and management of natural resources and the quality of human life.



## GOVERNANCE

Work on governance centres around facilitation of the democratisation of power and decentralised access to and management of public resources.

### Status of the Organisation

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

# Mission, Vision, Core Values and Core Purpose

## Mission

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

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

## 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.**

## CORE VALUES

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



Social Justice



Gender Justice



Environmental  
Sustainability



Honesty  
& Integrity



Secularism  
& Democracy

## CORE PURPOSE

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

# Eleven Levels of Intervention



**Action Organization:** To build organisations of people for direct action



**Popular Education:** To conduct popular education to build awareness



**Training and Conscientisation:** To promote conscientisation through training



**Fulfil Basic Rights and Needs:** To provide access for the fulfilment of basic rights and needs



**Experiments Towards Alternatives:** To experiment in sustainable and people-centred alternatives



**Research and Policy:** To conduct research aimed at formulating and influencing policy



**Advocacy and Lobbying:** To engage in advocacy and lobbying activities for participatory governance



**Networks and Alliances:** To participate in initiating and building networks and alliances for social transformation



**Documentation and Information Dissemination:** To engage in documentation and information dissemination to promote right to information



**Support and Consultancy:** To undertake support and consultancy work aimed at capacity building of people's and grassroots groups



**Solidarity Action:** To engage in solidarity action, nationally and internationally to highlight people's causes

# Our Approach

Cities tend to expand over time. Urban centres in Asia are expanding by an astonishing one million people a week – and rising. **As per census estimates, India’s urban population has grown from 290 million in 2001 to 377 million in 2011; accounting for over 30 percent of the country’s population.**

This is driven by increase in population of existing urban centres, emergence of new urban centres across the country and migration from rural to urban areas. The influx of people who wish to migrate from rural areas is well documented; they seek economic and social progress in their lives. It is also well-known that forced migration is a direct consequence of displacement and the lack of resources and opportunities in rural regions.

To tackle issues holistically, it is essential that interventions in cities are not independent of interventions in rural areas. YUVA understands the urban-rural linkage, whether it is in terms of distress migration or food security, and therefore engages with both geographies. By supporting livelihood opportunities in rural areas alongside natural resource management, YUVA contributes to help people stay on their land. YUVA also endeavours to create conditions by which those who have left their rural homes and live difficult lives in cities can hope to return to the comfort of what is familiar to them. **Formalisation and regularisation of settlements not only poses a great challenge to development of the urban poor but also contributes to increasing urban poverty.** Quality of life in our cities is poor as majority of the citizens find it difficult to fulfil their rights and avail of sustainable livelihood opportunities and basic services. This also results in issues like children living on the street and succumbing to harmful and difficult means to survive. Migration perpetuates child labour and begging.

Despite the vast potential of cities to improve living standards for everyone, the benefits are not equally shared. All too often, cities are divided into the haves and have-nots; the established and the marginalised; men and women. The poorest are forced to occupy land illegally and to live in appalling conditions which put their health and safety at risk. They are excluded from safe drinking water, sewage and garbage disposal, and affordable healthcare. They suffer disproportionately from rising crime rates and pollution. They lack formal education, skills training, and information on markets and job opportunities. Making a living means competing in cut-throat markets for low paid jobs, or running small-scale, low return businesses.



# Right to the City



Traditional approaches to reducing urban poverty have focused on providing welfare services. Whilst these programmes may benefit some, few have managed to integrate them into the urban mainstream. The urban poor are treated as passive recipients of ‘development’ rather than active partners, and are marginalised from decisions that determine the quality of urban life. Yet, they are affected more than anyone else. The urban poor have been most affected with decisions of ‘development’ that are made for cities. The highly polarised urban development trajectory has made it extremely difficult for the urban poor to stake a claim over the city and its resources, resulting in continued struggles for housing and basic services, employment, entitlements, etc. **Mumbai, with over 45% of its population living in informal settlements or slums, is an ideal example of this polarisation with a large number of urban poor like the pavement dwellers, street populations, etc. unaccounted.**

The Right to the City framework relies on internationally recognised human rights. It seeks to involve everyone—including the marginalised—workers, migrants, women, children and youth in the decision making, development, resource utilisation and upkeep of the city. YUVA works with the local government to promote local policies. The vulnerable and disadvantaged groups must have agency to live an adequate level of life and YUVA seeks to empower them to assert their rights. YUVA strongly believes in the rights-based approach and in the past the strategies of intervention have been aimed towards developing community-based people’s organisations, building and strengthening the urban poor leadership to secure their right to the city.

YUVA has been strategising its work through orienting, facilitating and educating urban poor about their entitlement rights, accessing various identity documents and government schemes as well as reviewing the implementation of schemes through small studies. These two broad strategies adopted by YUVA are aimed towards gradually building identity and citizenship for the urban poor. This ensures a sustained struggle towards staking a claim over the city as its rightful citizens. YUVA strongly believes that it is not through limited schemes riddled with conditional criteria of inclusion but through increased participation of the urban poor in decision making that the Right to the City can be achieved.

# YUVA's Units

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

## **YUVA Urban**

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

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

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

## **YUVA Rural**

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

## **YUVA Central**

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

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

# YUVA Urban

## Empowerment of and Advocacy for the Urban Poor

The magnitude of urban poverty cannot be understood only by looking at income indicators as its severity is dependent on many other factors. For example, the urban poor find it much more difficult to access resources such as housing, water, electricity, health care and education compared to their other urban counterparts. The urban poor have to often pay much more than the rural poor to access resources due to corruption, lack of identification documents, and due to the higher cost of living. Accessing resources in a roundabout way also eats into their time that could have otherwise been used productively. Their daily struggle is one between earning money in order to have a decent standard of living and juggling their time, money and limited possessions to access resources and exercise their rights. YUVA wants to create a space for engagement with the urban poor so that they can participate in decision making for themselves and have a 'Right to the City'.

## Right to Habitat

### Basic Service Facilitation Centres (BSFC):

Through the 4 BSFCs, YUVA addresses the needs of the urban poor in an organised manner to ensure that they are able to secure citizenship. The BSFC acts as an anchor for organising communities, educating them about their fundamental rights, laws, policies and schemes and allows the households and communities to access entitlements and basic services.

YUVA began a campaign for birth certificates in Ambujwadi, a no-development zone which has been neglected when planning health facilities in the city. A large number of deliveries in Ambujwadi are done by mid-wives as hospitals are far away, women already have other children to look after, and so on. When the births are not at hospitals children are not registered and do not have birth certificates. A court procedure is needed for their registration, and this is often overlooked.

Through the campaign we have facilitated **103 birth certificates for children and work on 45 cases is ongoing**. This campaign was run over a period of two months where meetings were held with parents in each *Balwadi* after which lists were made of the children who did not have birth certificates. There were constant interactions with parents and follow-ups were part of the campaign.

# YUVA Urban

## Working with the Homeless in Mumbai

**We were able to directly reach out to 328 homeless and 312 people from pavement dwelling communities.** These individuals have participated in monthly meetings, public meetings and in workshops held during the year.

Through the BSFC for homeless and pavement dwellers, over 680 entitlements were received by the communities in the past year. We advocated for rehabilitation of pavement dwellers under the Mahatma Gandhi Pathkranti Yojana (MGPY) as per the extended cut-off date (1/1/2000) by reaching out to the Housing Minister, Municipal Commissioner, Chief Secretary, Secretary of special project, and MGPY-Deputy commissioner (Special). The Right to Information was extensively used to get information about the process that has been followed by the booth-level officers, section-level officers for providing entitlements to the homeless and budget utilisation under the ‘Scheme for shelters for the urban Homeless’ of the National Urban Livelihood Mission.

Our advocacy efforts with the Footpathvasi Nagarik Sanghata (Pavement Dwellers Organisation) got us a response from the Housing Department of Maharashtra. The letter states that 1/1/2000 is the cut-off date applicable for all housing schemes such as the Maharashtra Housing and Development Authority (MHADA), Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA), CIDCO etc. With this information, the Footpathvasi Nagarik Sanghata is now working to secure the housing rights of pavement dwellers.

Leaders from homeless and pavement dwellers’ organisations have taken the initiative to facilitate creation of entitlements and citizenship documents. Some community leaders were very active during evictions and have also reported the violation of human rights during the evictions in the Police stations and to Ward Officers. Leaders from Pavement Dwellers organisation have come together and formed an Executive committee. The committee will look into matters of evictions and demand rehabilitation under the 1/1/2000 government regulation.

YUVA, in collaboration with Homeless Collective, strengthened efforts to demand ‘right to shelter’ for the homeless through advocacy with the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) for shelters and for reservation of land for shelters in the Mumbai Development Plan. We were represented in meetings with the Revision Committee of Development Plan for demanding homeless shelters in Mumbai. The MCGM has assured in the Annual Budget that they will develop 25 homeless shelters in 2016-2017. They have also made the budget provision of Rs. 3 crore for homeless shelters. Through media advocacy the homeless and pavement dwellers have given their suggestions to the MCGM regarding homeless shelters and rehabilitation of pavement dwellers. The demand for homeless shelters has been taken by MCGM seriously and they directed the Development Plan to reserve 125 plots for homeless shelters.

# YUVA Urban



## **Anti-Eviction Helpline**

Informal settlements are cleared often times without any formal intimation or warning. Hundreds of vulnerable lives are left in deplorable circumstances when eviction occurs. Women and children are impacted the worst during forced evictions. YUVA reaches out to evicted communities and is also engaged in preventing evictions. One such anti-eviction measure initiated by YUVA is the Anti-Eviction Helpline that can be utilised by communities to reach out to YUVA and its partners in various cities before, during and after evictions.

A formal launch of the Anti-Eviction Helpline was held on 15th July 2015. The entire panel comprising of Swami Agnivesh, Harsh Mander, Dunu Roy and Simpreet Singh emphasised on the need of this initiative and focused that the helpline should be able to reach out at the time of eviction and also to work on the preventive measures.

Our partners in this initiative are:

- SAATH in Ahmedabad, Surat (Gujarat)
- Deen Bandhu Samaj Sahyog in Indore, Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)
- Adarsh Sewa Sansthan in Ranchi, Jamshedpur (Jharkhand)
- Monfort Social Institute in Hyderabad, Vijaywada (Andhra Pradesh)
- Ashray Abhiyan in Patna (Bihar)
- National Hawker Federation at National level
- Indo Global Social Service Society
- Human Rights Law Network (HRLN) for legal aid

The helpline has been able to extend its support to network partners in building capacity to handle situations of forced evictions. We have been able to give strategic guidance along with conducting training sessions which have acted as a starting point for communities and organisations to learn how to handle forced evictions. YUVA is conducting training in communities and intervening in many cases through the judiciary. We have supported communities in Mumbai, Indore, Bhubaneshwar, Cuttack, Delhi, Puri, Patna, Ahmedabad and Ranchi.

# YUVA Urban

## Empowerment of and Advocacy with Informal Sector Workers

Informal workers account for a large chunk of the urban workforce but are denied their rights and under-represented as stakeholders in urban spaces. Their contribution to the urban economy is unrecognized despite the fact that cities are built and run with their contribution. For example, street vendors cater to demand that is fuelled by middle and upper class needs while waste pickers ensure that the city is clean. YUVA works with informal sector workers, empowering them to stake claim on the city's resources.

a) MRC: We work with seasonal and semi-permanent migrants in the Navi Mumbai area through the Migration Resource Centre (MRC). Different kinds of services were provided to construction workers, domestic workers and street vendors. **Over the period of one year 61 labour collective meetings were held and over 40 awareness programs reaching over 1500 migrant workers.** A total of 249 labourers were impacted due to non-payment of wages over the course of the year. The recovery of these non-paid wages crossed Rs. 11,63,390. Several identity proof cards like Aadhar, Ration, PAN, and voter ID cards were also facilitated. We started in situ crèches and children's resource centres in six different migrant communities in Navi Mumbai. Through these we are reaching out to nearly 150 children between the ages of 1 to 6 years.

An overall focus has been to empower migrant communities, through capacity building of Shramik Mitras (friends of workers), who are local informal workers. Women from communities are also being supported to play leadership roles.

## Advocacy, Implementation and Monitoring of Right to Food

There is a gap in terms of knowledge and interventions with regards to urban right to food, beyond an entitlements approach. YUVA was active in the Good Food Network anchored by Centre for Science and Environment and Misereor and contributed our understanding of urban food security issues. Through a round table discussion with the National and State Campaigners of Right to Food Campaign, Special Commissioner of Supreme Court for National Food Security Act (NFSA) and Advisor to Supreme Court on NFSA, YUVA arrived at a broad scope of research that is needed in context to Food Security and Urban India.

We launched this research study; several smaller studies are complete. A study has been conducted in Raipur (Chhattisgarh) and Surat (Gujarat) to study the functioning and limitation of the Public Distribution System in urban areas. Our approach to data collection has included traditional instruments and methods, and public hearings. One such hearing on the implementation of National Food Security Act in Delhi, saw critical insights being provided by over 200 representatives from informal settlements. Prominent Right to Food activists in the country also supported the evidence from the ground and shared their perspective. The research is ongoing and will be completed in the following year.

# YUVA Urban

## Advocacy, Implementation and Monitoring of the Street Vendors Act and our Work with Street Vendors Across India

The Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vendors Act clearly states that its purpose is 'to protect the rights of urban street vendors and to regulate street vending activities'. Street vendors constitute an integral part of our urban economy. Street vending is not only a source of self-employment to the poor in cities and towns but also a means to provide 'affordable' as well as 'convenient' services to a majority of the urban population. YUVA with its network partners has worked in many states and at the national level to ensure implementation of the Act.



**Patna:** A day-long meeting was organised by Ashray Abhiyan in collaboration with Right to the City Campaign and National Hawker Federation to discuss issues faced by hawkers in Patna. YUVA mobilised the participation of around 15,000 street vendors who participated in this meeting. 50 representatives from Bihar participated in the National event for implementation of Street Vendors Act at Jantar Mantar.

**Jharkhand:** YUVA, along with our partners, advocated for reservation of 2.5% of land for street vendors in Ranchi when the Master Plan was being drafted. Meetings were held with the hawkers on the Government's guideline of Smart Cities and a letter was submitted to the Government of Jharkhand demanding the inclusion of the hawkers in the making of the smart city plans for Ranchi. There are on-going discussions with the Food and Consumer Affairs Ministry for training the food hawkers of Ranchi. The Food and Consumer Affairs Ministry, along with the Tourism Ministry, are undertaking initiatives for the training of the hawkers. We have also requested for a training programme by the expert trainers of Indian Institute of Hotel Management. We had dialogues with the minister for Urban Development, Mr. C. P. Singh and discussed the constitution of rules and the implementation of the Street Vendors Act.

# YUVA Urban

**Odisha:** The Street Vendor Association has been formed in Puri and a slum dwellers association at Baramunda, Bhubaneswar, has been formed. Registration under the Trust Act has been planned for these two organizations.

**West Bengal:** We organised a press conference at the Press Club of Kolkata where it was declared that the Kolkata Hawkers Union will be participating in the registration process of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation. Many press reporters and photographers attended the press conference and covered the programme. Before the declaration of participation, only 10% of the total hawkers of Kolkata had submitted their applications but after this programme hawkers in huge numbers were seen at the corporation offices and at the camps for registration.

**Delhi:** We have especially worked towards strengthening various unions in Delhi (affiliated to NHF), supporting them in their work and strengthening the overall organisation in Delhi through weekly meetings with leaders. We have worked on their skill building, sharing knowledge of political and legal advocacy and building perspectives around rights based work and democratisation of the organisation internally.

**Maharashtra:** The Maharashtra Domestic Workers Federation is affiliated to the National Platform for Domestic Workers. Through the various training and capacity building programs, YUVA works to strengthen domestic workers' solidarity. A public meeting was organised at Azad Maidan on 12 March 2015, attended by 4,000 domestic workers from 8 districts. They developed a charter of demands which highlighted that:

- The Central Government should create comprehensive Legislation to protect the rights of domestic workers.
- The Maharashtra government should amend its Domestic Workers Welfare Board Act of 2008.

Street vendors training were held in Odisha and Bihar where the Street Vendor Union leaders were present from various districts. Beside the discussion on the Street Vendor's Act, information and discussion was also held on Right to Education Act, National Food Security Act, State's and Central Social Security Schemes, etc. In July, we were part of the National Meeting organized by the NHF where we actively participated in formulating suggestions on the draft rule prepared by the Central government on the issues of protection of livelihood and regulation of street vendors. The Delhi Scheme was also discussed and issues of street vendor evictions were discussed. After this, a brief critique was prepared by YUVA on the Delhi Scheme which was submitted to the State Urban Development Ministry and the Delhi Chief Minister. We also prepared a report on 'Problems faced by the Street Vendors in Delhi', which was submitted to the Urban Development Department of the Delhi Government.



# YUVA Urban

## Women's Empowerment

YUVA has aided in forming 12 women's groups. These groups monitor services in their communities, especially those related to early Childhood Development. Meetings have been held almost every month to monitor services of the ICDS and PDS. Two of the women's groups (Disha Group and Nidar Mahila Group) are actively engaging on issues in the community and have made visits to the local police station to understand the election and functioning of the Mohalla Samiti and have met with their local MLA to voice their concerns.

Groups in informal settlements of Ambujwadi, P/N Ward have been initiated in various housing societies. In meetings, issues related to health, hygiene and nutrition have been discussed. The women have been sensitised on the objectives, services, beneficiaries, roles and responsibilities of ICDS centres.

In M/E Ward, YUVA conducted meetings with the women, specifically with widows and domestic workers. This meeting was conducted to create awareness on the welfare schemes of the government and how to avail these schemes. In relation to frequent cases of eve teasing and harassment in the community, we were able to reduce harassment through regular meetings and awareness amongst police officers of the Lallubhai Compound Police Station.



# YUVA Urban

## Children and Youth



Among the marginalised, the urban poor child is especially vulnerable to mental, physical and emotional distress; calling for a strategy that combines the three approaches of empowerment, responding to specific issues of deprivation and exploitation, and governance safety nets. YUVA's interventions cater to different age groups. There are two approaches YUVA utilises:

- Preventive approach, developing a demand infrastructure of community organising to address vulnerabilities to violation of child protection. The preventive approach is also in the form of positive channelising of the instabilities in adolescent and youth behaviour through life skills and leadership development
- Responsive approach, developing a supply infrastructure that addresses cases of abuse, exploitation, harm and violence; and facilitates access to services (early childhood care, adolescent health, education, police and other protection services)

## Children

### 0-6 Years

#### Pre-school education and nutrition:

- Children who were previously unable to communicate properly opened up under the care and encouragement of the teachers.
- Children were able to overcome their social anxiety and began to interact with other children, engaging in play and study activities. As they attended the *Balwadi* often, they showed marked improvement in public speaking, reciting poetry and made new friends.
- The teachers' efforts to observe the situation in the children's home and engage with the parents proved very fruitful. Parents and carers of the children were often very thankful to teachers and remarked that their children had become more intelligent, engaged and well-adjusted. In fact, parents brought their other children to the *Balwadi* as well which was very encouraging.
- An improvement in the keenness to pursue education with school enrollment of all children aged 6 who attend the *Balwadi*.
- Preventive healthcare and awareness on malnourishment and early childhood healthcare among parents.

# YUVA Urban

## 6-18 Years

### **Bal Adhikar Sangharsh Sanghatna (BASS)**

Bal Adhikar Sangharsh Sanghatna (Collective for the Struggle for Child Rights) is a children's collective owned and run by children in the communities we work in. BASS is a collective for children to come together, build solidarity and together claim their rights. At the community level, child leaders are elected and as a collective they negotiate and demand services from the local police, elected representatives, community-based organisations (CBOs), youth groups and women. BASS groups address issues related to child protection. Children in coordination with the CHILDLINE (1098) have identified various cases and have followed up on cases. BASS continues its demand for public spaces and amenities for children in the Mumbai Development Plan.

Children's groups have conducted monitoring visits at Anganwadi (ICDS Centres) regularly. They have also tried to work in collaboration with Anganwadi Workers on topics such as cleanliness awareness. Children have assisted in conducting celebrations on National Days, Child Rights week etc. Children are aware about the provisions of ICDS and are aware of the Right to Education Act. They are spreading the awareness about schemes and acts through meetings with different children's groups and youth groups. BASS has been represented in different forums like Child Parliament, Consultation on Safe and Unsafe spaces at Mumbai and National Consultation of Children's Collectives 'Learning Together: Being Change' held at Ahmedabad. BASS leaders have spoken about the issues of child protection and their collective efforts to address issues in relation to child abuse, child marriage in the community.



# YUVA Urban



## Child Right's Week Celebration

YUVA celebrated Child Rights Week 2015 around the theme 'Child-Friendly Communities for a Child-Friendly Mumbai'. The theme for this resonates with our work on advocating for child rights in various informal communities in Mumbai. The theme was based on our belief that child-friendly cities start from child-friendly communities, which in turn start from child-friendly homes. The programmes were led by children and were directed towards children in the community, parents, communities and the city as a whole. Our activities were spread across the administrative wards of P North and M East, specifically in Ambujwadi (Malad) and Annabhau Sathe Nagar and Lallubhai Compound (Mankhurd). We also had few activities with street children living in and around Kurla station. A Child Resource Centre was inaugurated in Lallubhai Compound, Mankhurd.

The focus of the week was on the following:

- **Engaging with children in communities to create awareness on child rights:** Bal Adhikar Sangharsh Samiti (BASS) members conducted programmes to raise awareness on issues of safety, publicise child helpline numbers and led discussions on child rights with children in the community. This resulted in the creation of a Children's Charter for the community and city and was submitted to elected representatives and the Mayor of Mumbai by the children.
- **Engaging with community based organisations, youth and parents:** BASS members reached out to adults through a cycle rally and other activities to initiate a dialogue on safety and responsibility of adults promoting safe spaces for children in the community. This initiated and strengthened the formation of Child Protection Committees.
- **Facilitating engagement with government systems meant to protect and promote the well-being of the child:** Programmes were initiated to ensure interaction with government systems such as the police (to ensure safety and freedom from fear in communities) and the health administration (especially the government ICDS program) to discuss the importance of their role in creating child-friendly communities and cities.

# YUVA Urban



## **Child Resource Centres**

The YUVA Child Resource Centre (CRC) is a place for children to study, play and engage in activities intended to help them expand their world view. YUVA has further made it a point to make children aware about their rights and responsibilities. This is done by screening movies, conducting sessions and activities where the children are made aware of their rights, the difference between ‘good touch’ and ‘bad touch’, the conservation of water, hygiene, gender equality, child marriage, child trafficking, substance abuse, the importance of education etc. YUVA runs four CRCs- Sathe Nagar, Lallubhai Compound and two in Ambujwadi.

Some of the key behavioural improvements through CRCs were:

- Children who attended the CRC also regularly attend school
- Girl children are more likely to participate in activities
- Children have become vocal about the exploitation of other children
- Children have become better equipped to tackle their own problems

# YUVA Urban

## Youth

There are 17 YUVA affiliated youth groups in Mumbai that In total 20 youth clubs exist with 376 members. Twice a month, sessions are conducted with each youth group on values and issues in the community. The youth themselves take initiative to conduct sessions on themes of social importance. Through the year, awareness campaigns, training programmes, and other events are led and conducted by the youth.



# YUVA Urban

## **Adolescent Girls**

There are 3 groups of 28 adolescent girls called 'Saheli'. YUVA organised a campaign – Violence against Women and Girls. A street play on violence against women named 'Dastak' was performed 29 times while a street play on drug addiction was performed 17 times. YUVA organised sports events for girls and also held film screenings.

## **Anubhav Shiksha Kendra (ASK)**

This programme is being implemented since 1993 and is presently operating in the states of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, covering 28 districts. In the past year, we reached out to 8,757 youth belonging to a varied social milieu: students, drop-outs, employed youth, unemployed youth, and they belong to different castes and classes. The level of self-confidence, self-awareness, social awareness among youth is very low due to a lack of opportunities and space. ASK provides them with a platform to tap their potential and attempts to inculcate the ASK core values among youth. These values are related to gender equality, social justice, democracy and more.

ASK has 8 centres. The centres work with both urban and rural youth. ASK develops understanding of youth on the core values by creating awareness, providing specific training and exposure inputs. The trained youth are involved in the village level governance, politics and self-employment processes. We provide a platform where youth can express their views without any hesitation. For the ASK orientation programmes, games, social awareness songs and film screenings are used as learning tools.

## **Maitree**

The *Maitree* magazine provides a platform for the creative expression of youth. Editorial board meetings for *Maitree* were organized during this tenure. A total of five individual issues and one joint issue of *Maitree* were published. Along with varied pictorial content, these issues contained nine poems and 32 articles. Many experienced writers wrote for *Maitree*. The issues of freedom of expression, gender equality, caste and religion were especially informative. *Maitree* is intended to serve as a new platform for upcoming writers.

## **Youth Force**

Under this project, YUVA reached out to 4,516 youth across the city of Mumbai between December 2014 and November 2015. We collaborated with 3 training institutes : Sharamik Vidyapith, SNTDT and Women Development Institute. One of the objectives of Youth Force is to skill youth for livelihood opportunities apart from sensitising them on various issues.

# YUVA Urban

The youth were exposed to functioning of different government institutions: police station, municipal corporation offices and state government offices. Youth are keen to get engaged with government of social and their own issues. During Sustainable Development Goal campaign, the youth submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister of Maharashtra and also submitted suggestions for Mumbai's Development. 319 youth opened bank accounts, 120 youth started their savings and operations accounts.





# YUVA Urban



## **Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Livelihood Training Centre:, Ambujwadi**

With regards to vocational training, we began by linking youth to various skill upgradation and livelihood training courses available. In 2015, a survey of youth training requirements was carried out by our staff with Premila Vithaldas Polytechnic (Premila Vithaldas Polytechnic of Sreemathi Nathibai Damodar Thackersay (SNDT) Women's University, selected by the Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development, New Delhi, for implementing the scheme 'Community Development through Polytechnic'. Through this survey, we reached out to 150 youth in the community to assess their training needs. We also conducted a market scan of the available jobs in the suburb. As an outcome of these surveys, requirements of youth in the community and that of the market were made clear. As a response to this we decided to establish a livelihood training centre within the project location. The courses offered are being done in collaboration with Premila Vithaldas Polytechnic of SNDT Women's University. They provide certification as well as the cost of trainer's salaries. We are also collaborating with Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) for courses. Jan Shikshan Sansthan is Scheme of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, New Delhi, under the programme 'Support to Voluntary Agencies for Adult Education and Skill Development'.

# YUVA Rural

YUVA Rural is intervening in the thematic area of Natural Resource Management and Livelihoods. As of now, the work of YUVA Rural is concentrated in the rural areas of Akola and Wardha districts in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

## **Convergence of Agriculture Interventions in Maharashtra – Akola and Wardha**

The Government of Maharashtra has undertaken an agriculture reform project ‘Convergence of Agriculture Interventions in Maharashtra’ (CAIM), jointly with IFAD & SRTT. The project spans across six districts of Vidharbha region of Maharashtra affected by agricultural distress and farmers’ suicides. The primary objective of the project is to build resilience among the distressed farmers by means of:

- Increasing household income level of the most affected communities
- Empowering these communities to mitigate climate and market risks

CAIM appointed YUVA as the implementing agency of the project for 32 selected villages at Deoli cluster of Wardha District and Barishtakli cluster of Akola District. This is a four year project that began in 2012-13. Major interventions are in the field of agriculture for making this system more resilient.

Collectives were created as they provide a forum for people to discuss the issues that matter to their development, voice their concerns and find appropriate solutions for self-growth. People in the village came together for development and they made decisions for organisation of village development committee (VDC) by which they created a forum for making joint decisions for various activities. Representative of VDC are elected persons from the villages and necessary representation for all categories and genders are given.

The project led the increase of income by adopting various new technologies. The project also develops new market for the farmers for getting more value for their produce. The project develops confidence in the farmers for direct marketing to the consumer in market. Knowledge was built on diversified crop planning, people run organisations, and soil and water conservation.

# YUVA Central

YUVA Central was developed as an ‘outward’ looking entity to serve the world outside YUVA, while supporting the YUVA family. YUVA Central has three programmatic aspects– YUVA Training Centre, Information Resource Centre and Project Facilitation.

## **Diploma in Youth Development and Social Change (DYDSC)**

As one of the eleven levels of intervention listed, YUVA has always undertaken conscientisation through training. In its first three years of inception (2001-2004), YUVA central branch hosted and conducted 35 training programs for more than 445 people from different parts of India, Asia and the world. YUVA has majorly focused on human rights training, behavioural training, training for organisation management and development for NGOs and Community Based Organisations (CBOs).

Also through the journey, YUVA has initiated many youth training programs, like Youth Urban Animator Training Program (YATP) where it involved youth from their communities and trained them for leadership roles in society. Since 1992, we have spread the youth training format to different regions of the country through our Anubhav Shiksha Kendra (ASK) initiative in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

Given our experience over the years and considering the demand of a more structured format of training, YUVA collaborated with Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) to launch a course called Diploma in Youth Development and Social Change, DYDSC.

The course helped students gain competencies in the core practice skills required for working with youth. These include: communication; relationship building; building resilience; working with individuals, groups, communities; skills for working in and with organisations; mobilisation and social action skills; skills related to collection and interpretation of data; art based interventions.

The course included subjects like, ‘Youth and Identity’, ‘Youth and Sexuality’ and ‘Programmes, Policies, Schemes and Services for Youth’. The course also highlighted themes like crime and citizenship and participation. The structure of the course was majorly participatory and practical learning methods were used. Every subject included a field visit and interaction with youth or people working with youth at the ground level; the students visited organizations like Pratham, SNEHA and NYK & NSS to understand myriad aspects and built perspective on youth issues. Field placement is an integral part of the course. All students engaged in field placement for a month.

The students of the course were from different backgrounds, ranging from corporate to community organisers from different NGO’s, to people who wanted a window to the arena of social change and begin their own journey in social work. A homemaker shared how her prejudices and biases transformed after the knowledge and practical exposure she received from the course. Another student shared how she has been able to bring small changes in her family. She says because of the course she could reduce gender discrimination at her own house.

# YUVA Central

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

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

Following our repeated writing to authorities and also others doing the same, the clearances to the Ken Betwa River Link, the top priority under Inter Linking of Rivers for the current government, remains stalled so far. The government had declared that they wanted to start work in December 2015 and then in February 2016 and then again in March 2016, but there is no immediate sign of the project beginning. It may be a temporary reprieve, but it could also mean bigger impacts. It also means that several important steps like a landscape level assessment, views of state wildlife boards, etc. can get more time and attention. This is a step forward in environmental governance.

Hydropower development in India has significantly slowed down and it continues to be seen as costly, with huge impacts including in terms of disasters. SANDRP played a role in this, through its advocacy about environmental governance of hydropower projects, their costs, benefits and impacts. During the year, SANDRP made large number of submissions, and one of the highlights of this was that clearance to Etalin Hydroelectric Power Company could be stalled for some time. The movement against a large hydro in North East as also in Uttarakhand remains strong and successful. More recently, the National Green Tribunal in a petition asked that the 780 MW Nyamjung Chu HEP should go back for environmental clearance after fresh studies.

SANDRP's coordinator was also appointed on a sub-committee of the Union Ministry of Water Resources on restructuring of two main organisations of Government of India on Water Resources Development and Management. Apart from that, the Parliamentary Standing Commission on Environment, Forests, Science and Technology, in their report about the Environmental reforms in India acknowledged SANDRP submission and objections.

Following SANDRP's persistent advocacy that water being diverted to Konkan from Bhima and Krishna basin in Maharashtra should be stopped at least in the time of unprecedented drought, there was some impact in terms of media coverage. Similarly, our persistent advocacy about sugarcane and sugar factories being one of the important causes for the current Maharashtra drought also had some impacts in a number of ways and we hope we can sustain pressure on the government to promote environment friendly, sustainable living.

# Campaigns and Networks

## **Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA)**

Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA) is a national campaign of more than 4,000 civil society organisations (CSOs) spread across the country. YUVA supports the Secretariat of the Campaign that is housed in Delhi. Some key initiatives of the campaign during the reporting year were:

- ACTION/2015 and Engagement on post-2015 development agenda
- Citizens' Report Card : 'One year of NDA Government :Promises and Reality'
- Nine is Mine process campaign involvement on child rights
- Strategy Meeting on Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Governance Review in Four States (Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Telengana)

Action/2015 is a movement made of organisations, coalitions and partnerships calling for concrete actions and ambitious agreements for people and the planet by the end of 2015. In India, Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA) has been leading the process of developing consensus from civil society and communities around their aspirations from the new development agenda.

With an aim to promote people's aspirations on MDGs and outreach to key decision-makers in India to influence the post-2015 development framework, the Action/2015 India campaign along with its networks and partners implemented a national campaign to reach out to the Prime Minister's office. 5,00,000 postcards representing grass-root voices from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Manipur, Kerala and Karnataka were posted to the Prime Minister's Office. Through this campaign, with the help of multiple stakeholders, a wide range of issues were represented.

Wada Na Todo Abhiyan organised a consultation titled 'SDGs and international processes: A national consultation' on 5 November 2015 to understand how various parts of the international system are going to engage with the developmental framework advanced by the SDGs and if international institutions and processes are seeking to align their goals and strategies to complement the SDGs. The consultation included sessions on the relationship between multilateral development banks, WTO, UN processes and international groups such as BRICS, IBSA and G-77 with the SDGs. The event was supported by CBGA and Oxfam India. The audience and participants were a mix of policy analysts, academics, activists and journalists.

A Strategy Meeting on Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals was organised by WNTA with technical support from Safer World in New Delhi on 1 December 2015. The dialogue began with a round of introductions, and an overview of the WNTA was presented.

# Campaigns and Networks

Safer World shared their briefing paper, 'From Agreement to Action: Building Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies through the 2030 Agenda'. The Wada Na Todo Abhiyan shared a document titled 'Indian Civil Society Analysis of the Post 2015 UN Processes' and a brief analysis of the original indicators proposed and the proposed modifications for inviting specific inputs and suggestions on the draft. Since comments were being welcomed till March 2016, the meeting sought to understand the experiences and take further inputs from the ground level experiences of the stakeholders.

WNTA anchored the process of engaging communities and experts to prepare the 'Citizens Report on 2nd Year of the NDA Government – 2016: Promises & Reality'. The initiative included reviewing of government promises and performance with special focus on elimination of poverty and social exclusion. A number of civil society organisations, networks and campaigns have been consulted and contributed in the process. The report released on 23 May 2016, assessed the progress made on sixteen thematic areas and nine constituency groups. The thematic areas included- accountability, budget, civil society engagement, education, environment, food and nutrition, functioning of parliament, health, housing and urban poverty, human rights, labour and employment, land and agriculture, land rights, livelihood, peace, security and justice, water and sanitation and the constituency groups included LGBT, children, Dalit, minorities, and persons with disability, senior citizens/the elderly, tribals, women and youth. This Citizen's Report on the NDA year 2 aims to contribute to deepening democratic and development processes by ensuring accountability and transparency.

## **Hamara Shehar Mumbai Abhiyaan**

Hamara Shehar Mumbai Abhiyaan (Our City Mumbai Campaign) has active membership from multiple organisations and YUVA is the campaign secretariat. A core group with representation from various organisations oversee key activities and advocacy initiatives.

The year 2015-16 saw a change in the expected course of the Mumbai Development Plan (DP). After the release of the DP in February 2016, the campaign organised large scale community awareness meetings and issue based consultations to inform understanding of the DP. An en masse submission of suggestion and objection letters to the DP 2014 was also organised. Following much public protest from various interest groups, the state government ordered the MCGM to carry out corrections and republish the DP. As a result, a review committee was constituted to look into the DP.

The campaign engaged extensively with the review committee, especially on issues of housing, homelessness, social amenities, informal livelihoods, water and sanitation. Through multiple meetings, numerous suggestions were made to the review committee and ward planners. The campaign also did an extensive review of the DP Designation Survey that was released in December 2015.

# Engagement in Habitat III

## **Engagement in Habitat III - United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development**

The Habitat III Conference to be held in October, 2016 in Quito, Ecuador, is a United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development. It is focussed on setting a global commitment on sustainable urbanisation, by bringing forth a 'New Urban Agenda'. As it is an important opportunity to discuss urban challenges and think of solutions to plan, manage and run sustainable villages, towns and cities for years to come, YUVA has been engaged in discussions on Habitat III in order to influence policy at the national level. YUVA organised awareness workshops for Indian civil society members and engagement with the Ministerial bodies responsible for India's participation in Habitat III.

We published a collective report with our partners, 'Overview of Urban Development in 19 Years: An Account of Civil Society Organizations'. We provided inputs for the outcome documents of the preparatory conferences leading up to Habitat III, both at the national and international levels. Specifically, we worked towards increasing the engagement of young people in a framework through consultations with children and young people based on the Habitat III Policy Units. In collaboration with World Vision India, we conducted consultations with marginalised groups of children in six cities. A compilation of findings was shared with the United Nations Major Group on Children and Youth who then submitted it for consideration in the Zero Draft of the New Urban Agenda.



## About YUVA

Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA) is a non-profit development organisation committed to enabling vulnerable groups to access their rights. YUVA encourages the formation of people's collectives that engage in the discourse on development, thereby ensuring self-determined and sustained collective action in communities. This work is complemented with advocacy and policy recommendations. Founded in Mumbai in 1984, currently YUVA operates in the states of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Assam and New Delhi.

At the community-level, through an integrated 360-degree approach, YUVA delivers solutions on issues of housing, livelihood, environment and governance. Through research, YUVA creates knowledge that enhances capacity building. Through partnerships in campaigns, YUVA provides solidarity and builds strong alliances to drive change.

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