

YUVA ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

YOUTH FOR UNITY AND VOLUNTARY ACTION



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

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

I am very pleased to present to you our Annual Report for the year 2019–20. It has been such a milestone year!

YUVA observed its 35th founding day in August 2019. As someone who has engaged with YUVA's work since the early years, I am glad how the organisation has kept adapting to the changing times—not losing its core and yet responding to evolving needs. YUVA was one of the first organisations in Mumbai to start focusing on interconnected urban issues and rural-urban linkages. The holistic commitment to the empowerment of marginalised persons has helped the organisation drive transformative impact over time.

In 2019–20, the organisation's habitat focus continued across 4 states. Deeper networks and solidarities were forged with community persons and civil society partners to take ahead habitat struggles. On the livelihood front, the commitment to informal workers' rights was upheld with numerous sessions organised to enable people to access their rights. The support to informal workers' collectives, movements and participation in campaigns helped expand and sharpen our struggles for justice, equality and dignity.

We supported local campaigns led by children and young people, to further their demands. Their actions inspired many more people to join them.

Complexities and inequalities in the urban environment continue to grow, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic that began unfolding in March 2020. Our 360-degree approach to change allows us to be agile and responsive to the needs of those we work with, always hoping for a better future. With YUVA's emphasis on ground-up frameworks, such as the development of community-based organisations, people's organisations and people's institutions, there is immense potential to facilitate people-led development efforts.

As we embark on another year, I am grateful for all the support we receive as we recommit to the human rights framework. We are energised to take forward our vision for the next 15 years towards YUVA at 50 years. I hope you enjoy reading the Annual Report, which presents a snapshot of the year gone by.

In solidarity

Rajendra Joshi

President, YUVA



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I sit down to pen this message, I am reminded of Bulbule Tai's words from Nagpur. 'Previously, I just stayed at home, finishing my work and interacting with 4-5 women in the community'

What a shift there has been in her life from then to now! In the late 1990s, encouraged by YUVA, Bulbule Tai and a few other community women attended an All India Women's Meet. They returned, inspired to set up women's self-help groups and credit co-operatives in the community. Over the next decade, the groups expanded, both in size and in their understanding of credit transactions and capital management. They not only helped marginalised groups access financial resources, but also had a deeper social, cultural and political impact. The women's efforts eventually led to the formation of two credit cooperatives in Nagpur. In the current financial year, each cooperative crossed financial transactions of Rs 1 crore annually! Her story reveals an important understanding in YUVA— that *'change is a slow dance'*¹.

We return to this reflection often to energise us, reaffirming that our holistic commitment to people's rights takes time before any tangible impacts show. It is challenging too, especially considering how quick service-based outcomes often receive more attention and resourcing. In the long run, however, our commitment to facilitate ground-up, people-led change remains strong.

This reflection framed our commemoration of 35 years of YUVA's work, with people across communities, staff, friends and the governance. A common thread through the sharing and expressions was that the journey has taught us so much and changed us all deeply. This entire year and all the challenges it has

thrown up has constantly reminded me of the words of Avtar Singh Pash, 'हम लड़ेंगे तब तक, जब तक लड़ने की ज़रूरत बाकी होगी!'

In March 2020, with the spread of COVID-19 in India, I am proud of how we recalibrated to undertake relief efforts, conducting a rapid assessment in 30+ communities, which confirmed our perceptions of people's vulnerabilities. Here too, the question to get into relief was never yes or no, but how? What would be our approach? And the answer was almost instinctive. We adopted a human rights approach to relief—identifying the intersectionality of vulnerabilities, partnering with local communities and collectives, and acknowledging that duty-bearers need to be made accountable. As our relief efforts gathered strength, we tried to keep planning on how we could move from relief to rehabilitation to empowerment. Even as we addressed people's immediate needs, we took forward advocacy on housing, labour, planning and governance.

At the close of the year, in the context of entrenched vulnerabilities, I know that the journey is a long one, yet am hopeful for what we can together make possible. With every effort for change, we are one step closer to realising our vision of dignity, security and justice for every person.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners, donors, and well-wishers, and hope we can continue to support each other on this journey.

In solidarity

Roshni Nuggehalli

Executive Director, YUVA

1 | Gender at Work. Three Stories of Challenging Gender and Power Inequalities in Organizations. Edited by Michael Friedman and Shamim Meer. https://genderatwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Change-is-a-Slow-Dance_Friedman_MS_Meer_BOOK.pdf

ABOUT US

YUVA

Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA) is a non-profit development organisation committed to helping vulnerable groups access their rights. Since our founding in 1984, we have focused on empowering the most marginalised people, working on human rights issues related to urbanisation, migration and natural resource management.

To secure people's identity in the city and promote their participation in decision making, we run Habitat Facilitation Centres (HFCs), Labour Facilitation Centres, a Migration Resource Centre (MRC) and Child Resource Centres (CRCs) in communities. Currently, our work is spread across locations in the states of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Assam and New Delhi.

Broadly, YUVA's work has focused on three different areas:

POVERTY



We aim to address multi-dimensional aspects of poverty in a holistic and integrated manner.

ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY



Our work encompasses both the natural and human/social environment. We look at issues of quality, equity and sustainability in the development and management of natural resources and in the quality of human life.

URBAN GOVERNANCE AND PLANNING



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

MISSION

We will empower the oppressed and the marginalised, to help them access their human right to live in security, dignity and peace.

We will facilitate people's organisations and institutions towards equitable participation in the development process. We will engage in constructive dialogue and critical partnerships with the government alongside civil society, including movements, trade unions, women's groups, academic institutions and the private sector, to enable and strengthen 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 all people 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, race, 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

Our non-negotiable core values which commit us to the fundamental principles of development are:

Social Justice

Gender Justice

Environmental Sustainability

Honesty and Integrity

Secularism and Democracy

CORE PURPOSE

We aim to democratise society, polity and economy for all.

OUR APPROACH

Millions migrate from rural to urban areas annually, driven by hopes of better access to services, better education and employment, a better life. However, more often than not, people end up enduring appalling living conditions in cities and lack access to adequate housing and basic services, as they struggle to find decent conditions of work and pay. Urban planning processes have failed to take into account dignified ways of working and living for a large section of the population. With growing inequalities, the urban poor find it extremely difficult to stake their claim over the city and its resources. Thus the struggle for housing and basic services, employment, identity and entitlements continues unceasingly.

Our focus on co-creating inclusive cities derives from the Right to the City framework, which relies on internationally recognised human rights. It seeks to involve everyone, including the most marginalised, in decision-making, development, resource utilisation and imagination of cities. We aim to strengthen identity building and citizenship of the urban poor to help them

stake a claim over the city as its rightful citizens. We believe 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.

We follow a holistic 360-degree approach to tackle poverty, ensure environmental sustainability, and to drive participatory urban governance and planning, keeping rural-urban linkages in view to help set up just and inclusive spaces. We support natural resource management and the growth of new livelihoods while focusing on people's capacity building, to help them upskill and demand adequate conditions of work and pay and claim their rights. Intervention strategies in rural and urban areas focus on developing community-based people's organisations, building and strengthening people's leadership and developing their voices for integrated community development.

AREAS OF WORK

POVERTY

Poverty is multidimensional. The urban poor not only struggle for a living, they also find it difficult to access housing and basic services (such as water, electricity, etc.) even compared to their rural counterparts, and often end up paying much more to access this due to corruption and lack of identification documents. We engage with the urban poor to help them access their rights, so that they can participate in decision-making for themselves and realise their 'Right to the City'.

As quality of life is determined by the kind of habitat and work available, YUVA works in an integrated manner on both thematics, so that people's right to habitat and work can be upheld. Given the multi-faceted vulnerabilities at play, YUVA also implements programmes to uphold child rights and youth rights to strengthen these populations

RIGHT TO HABITAT

Our interventions focus on developing sustainable habitats, with access to land and housing as a right. We work with people living in insecure housing conditions, facilitating their access to basic services and building community resilience to handle forced evictions via the Anti-Eviction Support Cell. Engagements focus on capacity building, research and advocacy, and participation in campaigns and networks. Our work is spread across six cities—Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Delhi, Bhopal, Guwahati, and Nagpur.



IN NUMBERS

9

habitat facilitation centres

4,600+

entitlements facilitated

25

interventions by the Anti-Eviction Support Cell

MAJOR INTERVENTIONS

Facilitating access to entitlements and basic services across cities through Habitat Facilitation Centres.

Linking communities to government programmes and schemes to ensure greater access to welfare by the marginalised people.

Strengthening community networks and enhancing people's empowerment with the training of community leaders and the youth, people's organisations, community-based organisations and partner civil society organisations, at the city, state and national-level. Training on housing policies, housing finance, and municipal budgets took place.

Resisting forced evictions before, during and after they occur with people's training, network building and preventive strategies driven by the Anti-Eviction Support Cell, which is functional across 9 cities.

Networking and advocacy with diverse stakeholders for:

- Effective implementation of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act
- Land reservation and adequate housing for the urban poor

OBSERVING HABITAT MONTH

During Habitat Month (October 2019) teams organised city-level events, engaging on the question of housing rights with specific focus on adequate housing. The film screenings and discussions saw the participation of community members, municipal office bearers, partner civil society organisations, activists, architects and academicians. The city dialogues also received local media coverage in regional newspapers.

- Land rights for the marginalised, such as *malki pattas* in Nagpur
- Addressing gaps in implementation of government resolutions, policies and schemes

In 2019, YUVA anchored (as a member of the core committee) the Rashtriya Awas Adhikar Abhiyan campaign. This is a national campaign on housing and human rights to respond to people's right to adequate housing.

Parliamentary and state assembly advocacy

on issues of urban development. Analysing questions posed to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and publishing findings in the form of the *Parliamentary Watch Report 2019*. We led state level advocacy on the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) [PMAY(U)] in Guwahati, and Mukhya Mantri Awas Yojana in Delhi, among other initiatives.

Evidence-based documentation and research

strengthened by first-hand knowledge of on-ground realities, presenting people's needs and demands in their own voices. We published two films based on our work in Nagpur—*Zameen Apni, Ghar Apna (Our Land, Our Home): The Struggle for Malki Patta in Nagpur* and *Sangharsh Ki Pukar: Shehar Vikas Manch Ka Safar* (translated as *The Call of Resistance: Journey of Shehar Vikas Manch*, a people's organisation).



A STEP TOWARDS LAND TENURE SECURITY: THE CASE OF LAXMI NAGAR IN NAGPUR

The people living in the settlement of Laxmi Nagar in Nagpur were not eligible for *malki pattas* (land titles) as the land use records showed this to be a public utility (PU), despite the settlement being over 45 years old. Members of Shehar Vikas Manch (SVM), a people's organisation facilitated by YUVA, have been working with our team for years, presenting relevant information on the settlement (such as information on residential use, date of notification, slum certificate, number of households, total population, socio-economic data etc), conducting *mohalla sabhas* (community meetings) and engaging in media advocacy, for the cancellation of this reservation and its identification as a residential area.

Periodic deputations and regular follow-ups with officers of the Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC) have also taken place. On 13 September 2019, the state government notification was approved and Laxmi Nagar was deleted from PU reservation and identified as Residential as per MRTP Act, 1966. This has been a major achievement of YUVA-SVM. The



Nagpur Improvement Trust will conduct the Plane Table Survey along with a socio-economic survey to collect the data of households and post submission of documents *pattas* will be distributed to the communities.

Our work with Shehar Vikas Manch on helping communities in Nagpur access basic services and land rights was also featured in *Atlas of Utopias 2019*, an initiative by Transformative Cities.

SUPPORTING THE NRC CLAIMS AND OBJECTIONS PROCESS AND VOTER VERIFICATION



In Guwahati, we supported the filing of claims and objections under the National Register of Citizens (NRC) at the community level for 100 persons, specifically for those slum residents whose names were not included in the draft NRC list 2018.

We also supported voter ID verification by the Election Commission, Assam. We set up 3 community camps in Bhootnath, Uzanbazar and Shivnagar to help verify old voter cards and register new IDs, covering about 50 households comprising 250 individuals in total.

FACILITATING BASIC SERVICES AT BHIMNAGAR, NALLASOPARA

The 40-year settlement of Bhimnagar in Nallasopara, located on the descending slope of a hill, lacked basic amenities and services. The community did not have proper roads, and people needed to purchase water for their daily use. A women's group existed in the community but they were unsure of how their efforts could lead to change. Through successive meetings with the women, we helped them better understand their rights and how they could access them. With their efforts over the succeeding months, such as submitting letters to the local representatives and following up on cases, the government authorities agreed to repair the boring well connection. They also installed a drainage system for the community and fixed the community roads.



RIGHT TO WORK, WAGES AND WELFARE

We work with a range of informal workers (construction workers, street vendors, domestic workers and truckers), facilitating entitlements and registrations for access to welfare, conducting research and advocacy, participating in and leading campaigns and networks to take forward the struggle for dignified and adequate conditions of work for informal workers and the realisation of their rights through their empowerment. The work is spread across six cities—Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Delhi, Guwahati, Nagpur and Ranchi.

IN NUMBERS

INR 10 lakh+

construction worker wages recovered

1,300+

construction workers registered

600+

domestic workers registered

250+

awareness sessions

Members of Town Vending Committees in Delhi

30+

active self-help groups

MAJOR INTERVENTIONS

Enhancing rights awareness of street vendors, construction and *naka* (daily wage) workers, and domestic workers via sessions and workshops at the city, state and national level, on the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014; the Building and Other Construction Workers (BOCW) Act and latest Labour Codes; the Domestic Workers (Regulation of Work and Social Security) Bill, 2017, and state-wise welfare boards or Acts for domestic workers. We also facilitated registrations of informal workers to help them access welfare schemes.

Supporting access to wages, welfare and just working conditions for construction and *naka* workers via a range of initiatives and outreach programmes. The Labour Helpline helped recover over INR 10 lakh worth wages via cases registered through it in 2019–20

Encouraging collectivisation of informal workers, to help them develop a stronger voice and demand for their rights through collectives, at the local, state and national level. We worked closely with street vendors' and domestic workers' collectives to

further strengthen and support their rights-based initiatives.

In Guwahati and Mumbai (Vashi Naka) we facilitated the formation of street vendors' networks and we supported the strengthening of a national women's vendor network. We also encouraged the formation and strengthening of women's self-help groups (SHGs) in select communities in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Guwahati and Nagpur.

Driving well-being of informal workers with sessions on financial literacy, road safety awareness for truckers, and health camps and checkups for informal workers.

Parliamentary and state assembly advocacy on issues faced by informal workers, and gaps on implementation of acts and schemes. Analysing questions posed to the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) and publishing findings in the form of the *Parliamentary Watch Report 2019*. We engaged in advocacy on Labour Codes, especially the Wage Code.

Networking and advocacy in partnership with civil society organisations and networks at the city-level on issues related to social protection of street vendors, construction and domestic workers in Delhi, Mumbai, Navi Mumbai and Guwahati.

We participated in consultations with Working People's Charter, Social Security Now, and other civil society organisations

In Delhi, as part of the Town Vending Committee, we engaged in advocacy with state government office bearers, parliamentarians and legislative assembly members on the implementation of the Street Vendors Act. Through advocacy with government officials in Ranchi, we facilitated the provision of licenses for street vendors and registrations of networks.

We anchored participatory planning for street vendors in Delhi for the *Main Bhi Dilli Abhiyan: Ab Shahar*

Saath Banayenge campaign, initiated by civil society, people's organisations and academicians for public intervention in the upcoming Delhi Master Plan of 2041. We presented the 'Vending Position Paper' and 'Vulnerability Index' of Street Vendors in the meeting, and shared inputs on informal settlements.

Documentation and research strengthened by first-hand knowledge of on-ground realities, presenting people's needs and demands in their own voices.

- *Lived Experiences in the City's Foodscape: Challenges and Practices of the Urban Poor with IIHS*
- *Street Vendors' Struggles to Access Rights with National Hawkers Federation*
- *Bandhan Todvat Yaav (Break the Barriers): A Journey of Credit Cooperatives in Nagpur (film)*



TOWARDS THE RIGHT TO DECENT WORK FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS

The Maharashtra State Domestic Workers Coordination Committee was formed in July 2019 to raise voices against the weak legislation for domestic workers and the non-functional status of the Maharashtra welfare board. It was formed by the coming together of many like-minded organisations, collectives and domestic workers themselves. With over 25 member organisations across 16+ districts of Maharashtra coming together, the Committee aimed to present concerns of domestic workers via a unified platform. The Committee conducted regular meetings, trainings and workshops. At a meeting in Pune in December 2019, a memorandum was drafted which demanded strong implementation of provisions



mentioned in the existing Act, amendments to the existing Act, and delivery of welfare schemes. YUVA supported the Committee with timely information and knowledge updates.

EMPOWERING WOMEN SELF HELP GROUPS



In Guwahati, our team facilitated the formation of 7 women's self-help groups (SHGs). Two of these groups received the revolving fund of Rs 20,000 each, and the process is underway for other groups. Women from the SHGs have set up small businesses such as making traditional sweets, pickles, and a flower decoration business. The team has facilitated training and capacity building workshops for the groups and tried to extend marketing linkages for the groups.

In total, our teams have helped form and support 33 women's SHGs across Navi Mumbai, Nagpur, and Guwahati

TAKING FORWARD STREET VENDORS' RIGHTS AS A TVC MEMBER

We are a part of 8 Town Vending Committees across Delhi. Members attended over 15 meetings across the year. We organised detailed training sessions for TVC members for better implementation of the Act and engaged in advocacy for street vendors' welfare. When

the vendors in the Delhi City SP Zone were facing the threat of eviction, we organised a meeting between the Deputy Commissioner, North Delhi Municipal Corporation, and street vendors, to help them engage and ensure that people's rights were upheld

CHILD RIGHTS

We work towards the setup of child -friendly communities and cities, with the active participation of children as equal stakeholders. We offer children platforms to express their opinions, organise themselves into collectives, and advocate for their rights. With children in marginalised communities experiencing multiple vulnerabilities, our interventions aim to facilitate their holistic development. This work has taken place in Mumbai and Navi Mumbai

IN NUMBERS

2,000+

outreach

6

child protection committees formed

13,500+

children and youth attended road safety sessions

MAJOR INTERVENTIONS

Promoting child-friendly communities with the setup and regular functioning of Child Resource Centres (CRCs) which are safe spaces for children to enhance their participation and expression in the community. CRCs have also been important hubs to talk and act on children's holistic development, building community perspective and action for better childhoods. Where permanent CRCs could not be set up, 8 mobile CRCs were organised in different parts of Mumbai - at Parel, Matunga, Mandala, Vashi Naka, Lallubhai Compound and in Malwani.

Emphasis on child protection via the setup and proper functioning of Child Protection Committees (CPCs) and Community Child Protection Committees (CCPCs), and sessions on child sexual abuse and child protection with children, parents, the police, etc. 6 ward-level CPCs have already been formed, and the

team is working for activation of these committees across the city.

Empowering children through sessions and activities on rights awareness, Constitutional values, life skills, dance movement therapy along with classes on spoken English, computer training, and road safety awareness.

Encouraging children's collectives building so that they can take forward their demands and present it to relevant authorities and demand action. 30+ children's collectives (Bal Adhikar Sangharsh Sangathans) have formed across the city and are strengthening their collectivisation with regular activities and sessions.

Child-led research and advocacy initiatives to demand for adequate urban childhoods. Children among the homeless and from different settlements discussed their demands and drafted a Children's Manifesto which they submitted to the different party-based and independent candidates contesting Maharashtra MLA elections in 2019. Some of the leaders included these demands in their manifestos, especially around forming child protection committees, child labour etc.

The children were also part of advocacy efforts for the formation and activation of 170 CPCs in Mumbai Suburban district in partnership with the District Women and Children Development Department.



A CITY-LEVEL CHILD RIGHTS CARAVAN

Our teams promoted awareness about Child Rights throughout the year through campaigns, sessions, rallies and other formats. On 20 November 2019, a city-level 'Child Rights Caravan' brought together children from across settlements in Mumbai to promote awareness on their rights. The caravan's journey started from a school in Malad, then to Dadar railway station and ended at a children's home in Mankhurd. Children participated in a panel discussion on the meaning and importance of child rights at the school to an audience of students, teachers, child protection committee members, supervisor, and government representatives. They performed a street play at Dadar Railway Station, and led a rally, attended by and supported by the police, the railway



personnel and the general public. They conducted games and activities for the children at the home. The children have expressed their interest to further participate in development and governance oriented activities in the coming months

STATE LEVEL CONSULTATION ON SDG 11 AND BUILDING INCLUSIVE CITIES WITH CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION

Children from different cities of Maharashtra participated in a 2-day consultation to discuss their demands for a child-friendly city. The consultation focused on the themes of affordable housing and access to basic services, safe and affordable public transport and access for persons with disabilities, violence-free cities and safe open spaces, and climate change and environment justice. The consultation aimed to build knowledge on the status of child rights

30 years since the signing of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). It aimed to create a collective charter of children's demands for presentations to relevant authorities. Stakeholders ranging from urban planning experts to the Child Welfare Committee, District Protection Unit, police officials and others listened to child-led panels and promised to play their role in building just and inclusive cities

RAISING VOICES AGAINST CHILD LABOUR WITH A DETAILED CAMPAIGN

On World Day Against Child Labour in June 2019, the children's collective Bal Adhikar Sangharsh Sangathan launched the 'Haq se lo shamil ho, padho likho aage badho' campaign in Lallubhai Compound, with discussions in the community, and a street play to spread awareness about child labour. At Ambujwadi, the children launched the School Chalo Abhiyaan while at Dadar Railway Terminus and Dharavi Police station the team engaged with different stakeholders to further awareness and action. YUVA colleagues also took part in a televised discussion on DD



Sahyadri, highlighting the need for community and electoral ward-level child protection committees

YOUTH RIGHTS

We aim to enable young people's self determination and empower them to claim their social, economic and cultural rights. YUVA offers the youth platforms to express their opinions, organise themselves into collectives and advocate for their rights. Interventions with the youth are catered towards their empowerment and livelihood enhancement, to help in their holistic development as conscientious citizens. This work has taken place in Mumbai and various districts of Maharashtra.

IN NUMBERS

11,000+

youth outreach

330+

youth access vocational training

39

youth access educational opportunities

19

youth receive scholarships

9 youth groups formed; **9** young women's groups formed

MAJOR INTERVENTIONS

Empowering youth through sessions, discussions and activities on identity formation and strengthening, rights awareness, Constitutional values, life skills, etc to help in their holistic development. Through different programmes such as Anubhav Shiksha Kendra (which focuses on experiential learning), City Caravan (co-creating inclusive cities with youth), Youth Leadership Building Course and Aman ke Saathi (peace-building with youth), we aim to help the youth develop capacities for personal and social development.

Encouraging youth collectives formation and strengthening to help youth jointly claim and defend rights, and take forward demands and present it to relevant authorities for action. Group strengthening processes were regularly held. 9 mixed youth groups have been formed, 9 young women's self-help groups (SHGs) were formed, and 5 more groups are in the process of formation.

Facilitating access to education and improved livelihood opportunities for youth. 39 youth who had dropped out of education, returned to their studies, and 23 youth accessed placements. 19 youth received scholarship support to continue their studies.



Youth-led networking and advocacy initiatives to drive more impact. The youth participated in and led multiple campaigns throughout the year on claiming spaces, access to centres with internet connectivity to help them continue education, and on waste management. They organised career guidance and skill building sessions in communities.

YUVA'S YOUTH EMPOWERMENT EFFORTS FEATURE IN AZIM PREMJI UNIVERSITY'S STORIES OF CHANGE COMPENDIUM

YUVA participated in the Azim Premji University case study challenge. Our submission, focused on the journey and efforts of a Mumbai youth collective facilitated by us, the Malvani Yuva Parishad, was among the top 10 entries submitted, and published in

their compendium. The case study focuses on how, since its formation in 2014, the Malvani Yuva Parishad has allowed youth members to access their rights through collective action.

YOUTH DRIVE CHANGE IN MUMBAI

Among the different youth groups set up across Mumbai in 2019–20, was the group formed via the Anubhav Shiksha Kendra, experiential learning programme in Mumbai's Western suburbs. This group focused on the needs of the youth in Charkhop Gaon and Bhabrekar Nagar. The group is led by the values of social justice, gender justice, ecological justice, honesty and integrity, secularism and democracy. 20 active leaders emerged from the group and they engaged with about 50 youth across the year



YOUTH IN RURAL AREAS AT THE FOREFRONT OF CHANGE

Kiran Dattatray Mali, a teacher at Jadhavwadi, Kolhapur, joined the Anubhav Shiksha Kendra, experiential learning programme two years ago. He credits the programme with helping him imbibe values and skills that have helped in his teaching and to improve processes at his school. 'Due to our hard work, efforts from colleagues, cooperation from students and parents, the municipal school was among the first ones to get ISO certified in Maharashtra,' he says.

Shaila Yadav, hailing from a scheduled caste family in Satara, has been determined to study, despite her family's challenging circumstances. From a young age, she has been singing in events (jagrans) to help her family earn. She says, 'Education was never an option for the children of my community, but I was determined to break stereotypes. Even though I failed a subject in the tenth and twelfth grade, I continued

to study as I knew that education alone could help me tackle the discrimination and neglect of society. Eventually, I earned my Masters in Social Work degree'. While she was studying social work, Shaila came across an Anubhav Shiksha Kendra workshop. Shaila engaged deeper with the process, going on to set up the Bhakte Vimukt Yuva Parishad movement in Western Maharashtra, building campaigns to amplify the learnings and mobilising youth to demand for their rights. She has also been teaching children from scheduled caste families. Shaila has also recently run for the post of Sarpanch in the local elections in her village.

Kiran and Shaila are just two examples of youth who have undergone this experiential learning process, and are keen to emerge as changemakers.

ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY

Our engagements focus on promoting natural resource management and the improvement of the human environment with sustainable agricultural practices, improvement of livelihood opportunities,

community empowerment and the setup of rural basic infrastructure in schools. The projects are spread across three districts in Maharashtra—Akola, Wardha and Nashik.

IN NUMBERS

10,000+

trees planted as a biodiversity conservation measure

3,000+

hectares of land undergoes watershed development

450+

farmers benefit from sustainable farming

90+

households take up additional livelihoods

50

farmer producer groups formed

5 villages implement waste water management; **3** villages access drinking water pipelines

MAJOR INTERVENTIONS

Promoting innovative and sustainable agricultural methods and practices to reduce input costs, improve production and profits, and reduce risks for farmers. Farmers who took up these practices could enhance their net profit by INR 3,000–5,000/acre. With crop diversification (cultivation of vegetables and spices), households increased their net income by INR 10,000/acre compared to traditional practices.

Facilitating additional income and livelihoods for below-poverty-line families, small and marginal farmers, women and landless persons through on-farm and off-farm activities.

Driving value-addition of agriculture and allied products and increasing income with reduced post-harvest losses and increased shelf life. Over 700 farmers participated in the different training programmes on better practices, agro-allied activities, etc.

Access to basic infrastructure and services for rural poor communities, such as adequate houses, safe and clean drinking water, school and health facilities, irrigation systems, solid waste management, etc. 64 households accessed the Gharkul scheme, 93 households constructed toilets, and 157 households accessed cooking gas. In 5 villages, waste water management work took place. Repairs took place in 4 schools and 7 classrooms were digitised.

Conserving biodiversity by mapping and identifying region-specific species, organising plantation drives of indigenous flora and other conservation measures. In 7 gram panchayats, the biodiversity management committee was strengthened, and 10,000+ trees were planted.

Enabling cost-effective and sustainable resources for ashramshala students. In 10 ashramshala schools, the students benefited from access to water, sanitation and hygiene practices. Child cabinets have been set up in the ashram schools to sustain the programme.

Engaging in the water sector by supporting the efforts of the South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People (SANDRP). In 2019–20, the network's deepest impact was possibly on the debate around the causes of the Krishna basin floods in 2019. Persistent advocacy led to an effective debate on the role of big dams in worsening the Krishna basin flood disaster of August–September 2018. SANDRP coorganised the India Rivers Day meeting in November 2019 with partners. Across the year, the network was quoted in the media 110 times, published 187 posts on its website and blog hits were over 100,000.

ENSURING ACCESS TO WATER IN WATER-SCARCE REGIONS

The villages of Warkhed and Chincholi had faced water scarcity for decades. Previous attempts to enable access to water had not led to any solutions, and the money allocated for this had often been siphoned to other sources. The YUVA team worked closely with the authorities to obtain the requisite permission to dig two wells. The sanctioning and approvals took months, but finally the work could begin. Two wells have been installed in the villages, and water is available in both round the year. The team has also been working to extend the pipeline coverage to the villages, and the process is underway.



ENCOURAGING WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

The YUVA team facilitated the formation of the Kathepurna Samruddhi Mahila Sahakari Sanstha, a women's cooperative with 285 shareholders. The cooperative comprises of women across 18 villages. Through the cooperative, 350 women were able to access sewing machines at a 90 per cent government subsidy. Our team helped the team receive training and conducted exposure visits to help in their skills and perspective building. The women have also been connected to a packaging unit in Akola and they have been tailoring and supplying cloth bags to them. The cooperative has helped empower the women and offered them access to a stable livelihood.



GOVERNANCE

ADVOCACY ON SDGS

We have engaged with multiple stakeholders (at the regional, national and international level) on knowledge generation related to the Sustainable Development

Goals (SDGs) and built dialogue, especially on SDGs 8 and 11

PARTICIPATION IN WADA NA TODO ABHIYAN

We are a part of the Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA), a national platform of civil society organisations focusing on governance accountability to eliminate poverty, discrimination, and social exclusion. We are a part of the Working Group, representing the urban and the Maharashtra thematic.

YUVA contributed to the Global Week of Action, with case studies based on our work. We also anchored the regional and national consultations on 'Leave

No One Behind' for Migrants and Urban Poor in partnership with civil society organisations, Wada Na Todo Abhiyan, Niti Aayog, and the United Nations Resident Commissioner's Office (UNRCO), India, for the Voluntary National Review 2020. At the National Consultation, 70+ civil society partners from 46 organisations across the country participated to review the status, challenges and good practices in the implementation of the SDGs among the migrants and urban poor population group.

FORMATION AND STRENGTHENING OF MOHALLA SABHAS AND SAMITIS

We have been facilitating the formation and strengthening of *Mohalla Sabhas* and *Mohalla Samitis* across cities, promoting this under the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act process of decentralisation and decision-making at the *basti*-level, mandated under the Area Sabhas. *Mohalla Sabhas* help further capacity building in the community and engage with people on issues concerning them.

20 *Mohalla Samitis* were formed across Bandra and Ambujwadi in Mumbai. The *samitis* were made richer with the participation of men, women, transgender persons, disabled persons, among others, who used the forum to discuss their local issues and advocacy strategies. Members from the *samiti* also met local leaders in these areas to demand for their rights

SUPPORT TO DISASTERS

Post the severe cyclonic storm Fani in Odisha, our team provided disaster relief support to 100+ street vendors and 680+ families across 10 informal low-income settlements (comprising of daily wage labourers, sex workers, transgenders and others).

In July 2019, after heavy rains led to a wall collapse, resulting in the death of 26 persons, and injuries to 68 others, YUVA and Mumbai Roti Bank, with the support of the Forest Department and the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, provided food to about 150 people living in Ambedkar Nagar, Malad.

Since mid-March 2020, with the onset of COVID-19 in India, we conducted a rapid assessment across 34 communities in 4 cities of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR). The findings on people's access to food and work were alarming. It informed our relief work and gave us the edge in planning for resources and outreach to people in the following days. We adopted a human rights approach to relief, aiming to address intersecting vulnerabilities, partnering with local communities and collectives in relief operations, and calling on duty-bearers to be accountable to people's needs. By end-March 2020, our relief efforts had already reached 3,000+ households (comprising over 13,000 individuals) with dry ration supplies, and 11,000+ frontline workers with cooked meals.



PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS

In April 2019, as the UNMGCY representative, YUVA participated in the Financing for Development Forum at the United Nations headquarters in New York, at the Ministerial Financial Dialogue on Promoting Inclusive Growth and Reducing Inequalities, part of the ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum.

In September 2019, YUVA was a part of the Altering the Climate: Youth and the Tough Decisions Ahead session at the UN Youth Climate Summit. The initiative helped review and discuss questions related to who decides, governs, acts on matters of climate and what could be the role of the youth in such discussions

YUVA was a part of the People's Assembly of the

UN General Assembly in September 2019, bringing together people's representatives and civil society members to help make the voices of the marginalised heard.

YUVA also participated in the Making Change from the Grassroots Session at Women Funded 2019 - Conversations Towards a More Equitable World, in September, discussing our work with communities, advocacy for reforms and more.

In February 2020, YUVA participated at the 10th World Urban Forum at Abu Dhabi. Members were speakers at the session SDGs in Action: Localising SDG 11, at the Children and Youth Roundtable and the Networking Event by Global Planning Aid



YUVA CENTRE

YUVA Centre offers an open, reflective space that is ideal for meetings, workshops, conferences and other learning and training initiatives. The Centre contains residential facilities too. It aims to provide the best environment for trainings, and enhance its self-sustainability. In 2019–20, 270+ events were hosted in this space organised by non-profits, community based organisations, corporates, the government, and others.





YUVA'S 35TH FOUNDING DAY

In August 2019, YUVA observed its 35th founding day. Celebrations across communities began days in advance, as people reflected on and shared their journey of engaging with YUVA. It was an amazing experience to connect with friends of YUVA from over the years and across different geographies. The teams also engaged in a visioning exercise, and presented their hopes and dreams for YUVA at 50 years.

The staff and governance members also participated in a collective reflection and visioning exercise. Our work was creatively presented across YUVA Centre via exhibitions, and we expressed gratitude to all our colleagues, partners, board members and well wishers for their support to the struggles.



SHIFTING NARRATIVES

COMPLEXCITY

IN NUMBERS

13
days

19
venues

7
partners

3,000+
participants

In its third year, ComplexCity (YUVA's annual festival to celebrate differences in the city) sought to take ahead the narrative building exercise in Greater Mumbai with people's support.

ComplexCity drew on the cityscape, inviting every urban inhabitant to share their experiences of the city with each other. The festival was a tribute to the city, an acknowledgement and appreciation of and respect for every effort towards city building, and a commitment to continue to co-create the city with one another's support.



From 11–23 February 2020, the ComplexCity events included

- **Equipolis:** An interactive urban exhibition
- **Living Mumbai:** A film festival focused on the urban.
- **Bolti Bombay:** Competitions—photography, street play and debate—to promote critical thinking among the youth
- **Making Mumbai:** A convention to showcase youth action across city spaces.
- **Culture Kaun:** A showcase of indigenous lives and traditions through performances
- **City Walks:** Exploring the city's oft-overlooked areas on foot
- ComplexCity was made richer with the support of partners and the public, from children to the elderly, the urban poor to middle-class residents.



URBAN RESOURCE CENTRE

YUVA's Urban Resource Centre is a dynamic space (both online and offline) to generate and share knowledge on the urban, drawing from YUVA's rich engagement with the city across 35 years. The Centre covers a wide range of urban themes, from housing to migration, informal livelihoods, urban childhoods, etc.

By democratising and disseminating urban knowledge, the Urban Resource Centre aims to grant narrative control in the hands of every person, and not just to those in positions of power. It hosts content in a range of mediums, from books to audio, video, training manuals, reports and unpublished raw footage. The Centre's archival content is constantly updated by narratives generated from the present work.

An important goal of the Centre is to find ways in which collaborative environments can be set up to

help communities, academics and other interested stakeholders engage on and further enrich this content. The Centre also aims to train independent media producers in the communities from across Mumbai, who in turn could discover new arenas of advocacy, transformation, employment, learning, social harmony, inclusion, and cultural and creative expression through their media production and access to the Centre materials and the larger community.

This year we were able to digitise and classify 6,500 photos, and segregate, convert, classify and make ready for use over 320 hours of video footage. 2 video workshops took place to promote critical thinking, creative expression, reflexive practice and participatory communication, training 25+ youth. 3 photography workshops took place across the year and 30+ film screenings were organised.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

YUVA's multi-lingual blog <https://medium.com/@yuvaonline> published 41 articles in 2019–20, taking ahead voices from the ground to communicate our work and its impact to different stakeholders.

On social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Youtube) YUVA continued to engage with diverse audiences, sharing updates and insights from the work in progress.

WORKING AT YUVA

YUVA offers an accepting, inclusive space for individuals, helping them develop their capacities and flexibly work to further the organisation's objectives. Transparent reporting and accounting systems are followed, to build trust in the process and help employees contribute better. Everyone is a leader here, charting their concrete path of growth with the support of their team members and others.

The organisation is conscious of maintaining diversity in its profile. The staff strength at YUVA consists of full-time staff and consultants. Across the year, 50+ volunteers/interns/researchers/fieldwork students also worked with YUVA in different projects across locations.

ORGANISATIONAL GOVERNANCE

COMPOSITION OF 2018-20 GOVERNING BOARD

President:

Rajtendra Joshi

Treasurer:

Archana Shrivastava

Secretary:

Mani Mistry Elavia

Members:

**Gagan Sethi, Kavitha Krishnamoorthy,
Nisreen Ebrahim, Amitabh Behar,
Mohan Surve, Nalini Shekar**

There is separation of YUVA's Management and Governance. The Executive Director attends Board Meetings in an ex-officio capacity. The current Board Members will serve for the 2018-20 term.

No remuneration was paid to any Board Member during 2019-20. No Board Member has any blood relation with another Board Member or with any of the staff members.

INTERNAL COMMITTEES

INTERNAL COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

YUVA's Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) Committee, while drawing from The Sexual Harassment of Women in the Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013, applies this policy to women, other genders and men who are employees, volunteers, interns, and consultants of the organisation.

The Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) is a gender-neutral investigative committee with an external member who is a lawyer. Over the year, training sessions are held to ensure the setup of an enabling environment, and prevent instances of sexual harassment.

Presenting the ICC 2019–20 report:

- . 0 complaints of sexual harassment received over the year
- . 0 complaints disposed off during the year
- . 0 cases pending for more than 90 days
- . 1 workshop/awareness programme conducted for employees
- . No action needed to be taken by the ICC and the management

CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

YUVA is committed to the safety and development of children, and all employees, volunteers, interns, and consultants of the organisation are bound to comply with the organisation's Child Protection Policy. The Child Protection Committee aims to ensure regular training of the staff, to ensure safe and enabling spaces for children, and to see that this policy is upheld.

Annual report of the Child Protection Committee:

- . 0 complaints of sexual harassment received over the year
- . 0 complaints disposed off during the year
- . 0 cases pending for more than 90 days
- . 1 workshop/awareness programme conducted for employees
- . No action needed to be taken by the Committee and Management

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

[Vide Rule 17 (1)]

Registration No. : F-10304(Bom)

Youth For Unity And Voluntary Action (YUVA)
Income & Expenditure Account for the Year Ending 31st March 2020

EXPENDITURE	RS.	RS.	INCOME	RS.	RS.
To Administrative Cost		3,67,161	By Interest		
To Depreciation		6,39,799	On Saving Bank Accounts	4,46,002	
To Miscexpense		40,532	On Fixed Deposits	12,04,804	
To Expenditure on Objects of the Trust			On MSEB Security Deposit	10,610	
(a) Religious				16,61,416	
(b) Educational			Less :- Interest Credited to Projects	54,015	16,07,401
(c) Medical Relief			By General Donation		45,69,142
(d) Relief of Poverty			By Donations Towards Earmarked Activities	6,12,19,951	
(e) Other Charitable Object		77,695	Less :- Transfer to Earmarked fund	6,12,19,951	-
(f) Relief Expenses-Covid-19		25,98,711	By Income from other sources		
To Expenses on the Earmarked Activities	6,12,38,618		a)Community Contribution	61,036	
Less :- Transfer to Earmarked fund	6,12,38,618	-	b)Membership Fees	3,600	
			c) Income From Training Centre	24,53,151	
			d) Misc. Income	1,000	
			e)Net Surplus on completion of project (EFFECT OF CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT	7,63,546	
			f)Other Income	-	32,82,333
To Surplus carried over to Balance sheet		57,34,977			
Total Rs.		94,58,876	Total Rs.		94,58,876

Significant Accounting Policies as per Schedule

A

As per our report of even date

For C N K & ASSOCIATES LLP

Chartered Accountants

ICAI Firm Regn No. 101961 W/W-100036


Suresh Agaskar

Partner

Reg. No. 110321

Place : Mumbai

Date :

27 DEC 2020



For Youth for Unity & Voluntary Action (YUVA)


Rajendra Joshi
President




Mani Mistry Elavia
Secretary


Archana Shrivastava
Treasurer

24 DEC 2020

Youth For Unity And Voluntary Action (YUVA)
Balance Sheet as on : 31st March 2020

Funds & Liabilities	RS.	RS.	Property and Assets	RS.	RS.
Trust Funds or Corpus :-			Immovable Properties :- (At WDV)		
Balance as per last Balance Sheet	3,37,84,393		(As per Annexure "B")		79,25,308
Add: Corpus Donation received	53,836		Movable Properties :- (At WDV)		
Add: Capital Expenditure From Earmarked Funds	41		(As per Annexure "C")		14,63,566
Less: Amount transferred from Earmarked Fund	-	3,38,38,270			
			Other Earmarked Funds :- (Annexure A)		
Other Earmarked Funds :-			Investment		35,19,890
(Created under the provisions of the trust deed or scheme or out of the Income)			Fixed Deposit with Banks		2,70,47,640
As per Annexure "A"		1,46,05,168	(As per Annexure "E")		
Liabilities :-			Advance :- (As per Annexure "D")		
For Expenses	45,27,868		Deposits	5,98,820	
For Amount received in Advance	3,200		Project Advances	32,04,202	
For Deposits	-	45,31,068	TDS	13,39,931	
			Receivables	11,74,579	63,17,532
			Cash and Bank Balances :- (As per Annexure "E")		
Income and Expenditure Account :-			Cash in hand	2,79,910	
Balance as per last Balance Sheet	(33,40,573)		Balance with bank	88,15,064	90,94,974
Less: Surplus carried over from Income & Expenditure Account	57,34,977	23,94,404			
Total Rs.		5,53,68,910	Total Rs.		5,53,68,910

Significant Accounting Policies as per Schedule

The above Balance Sheet to the best of our belief as per our Audit Report contains a true account of the Funds and Liabilities and of the Property and Assets of the trust

As per our report of even date

For C N K & ASSOCIATES LLP

Chartered Accountants

ICAI Firm Regn No. 101961 W/W-100016

S. S. Atankar

Suresh Agaskar

Partner

Reg. No. 110321

Place : Mumbai



Date : 27 DEC 2020

For Youth For Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA)

Rajendra Joshi
Rajendra Joshi
President

Mani Mistry
Mani Mistry Elomb
Secretary



Aishwarya Shrivastava
Aishwarya Shrivastava
Treasurer

27 DEC 2020

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

Registered on NGO DARPAN (Niti Aayog). Unique ID: MH/2017/0117127

Received gold certification from GuideStar India

Awarded the Compliance Certificate from Centre for Advancement of Philanthropy (CAP) for the following key areas: Legal, Financial, Human Resources, Board Governance, Communication, Strategy, Fund-raising, and Volunteer Management

ABOUT YUVA

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

YUVA (Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action)

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