

# Changelooms With.in

2014 - 2015



**"commutiny"**  
the youth collective

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# Changelooms With.in at a glance

**Changelooms With.in is a yearlong leadership programme for 100 passionate and enthusiastic young leaders. These 100 young people will be mentored to lead social change initiatives that address social exclusion within their communities.**

Changelooms With.in intends to provide opportunities and direction to the tremendous energy, passion and desire to bring positive change that the youth beholds. Going beyond the four legitimate 'spaces' that young people primarily occupy that of family, livelihood/education, friends, and leisure it believes in introducing youth to the 5<sup>th</sup> space. Beyond these four spaces, which are not often governed by young people, there is a space we choose to call the 5th Space that young people also occupy, where they truly discover themselves as they engage in social action. An exciting adventurous and yet safe space that equips young people to understand themselves, address conflicts, build cross-border relationships, clarify their values/stances, and develop leadership skills by enabling them become learners for life and nurture a learning society along with them.

Changelooms is an inside out leadership journey that encourages, recognizes, and supports young leaders to achieve their potential to lead social change initiatives. These cadres of young activists with their innovative ideas are mentored and facilitated at the right stage to put their ideas into action and lead a journey to become a social entrepreneur and catalyst.

## The aims of Changelooms With.in

- **To strengthen youth-led change initiatives** to promote and pioneer innovative and creative projects that work towards social inclusion.
- **To incubate leaderships of “Changeloomers”** and enable them to create an impact on the ground, and identifying models that can be replicated.

## The programme offers:

- **An “Inside out” learning journey** - Changeloomers are encouraged to explore their leadership potential, starting from within by examining their own self-awareness.
- **Development Centres**- The development centre enables the changeloomers to deepen their intervention and strategies and build skills to design and facilitate high impact learning spaces using frameworks and models such as ADDIE to plan an intervention and Walkers Cycle for session. It gives an opportunity to delve into self-transformation and identify ones own strengths, fears and drive the change from within and take it outside to the society.
- **Mentoring** - each Changeloomer is assigned a mentor who meets up with them throughout the programme, helping them to develop their personal and public leadership skills.
- **Visibility support** -Changeloomers are supported to draw up action plans to help them to design, carry out and demonstrate their social change initiatives, messages and actions.
- **Seed funding** - based on their action plans and mentoring discussions, each Changeloomer can apply for a small amount of funding to help them to carry out or scale up their projects.
- **Network linkages** - Bringing together various youth collectives and actions, enhance liaison within youth initiatives as well as with other allies and liaison with various social campaigns will be facilitated by the programme.

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## Changeloomers' Profiles



**Divyaa Gupta**

Divyaa is pursuing her graduation in economics from Delhi University. She loves sports and adventures and plans to make her life around one. She believes that the most crucial aspect of any change is to strengthen human relations, without which nothing can be achieved. 'Navjeevan', her initiative aims to empower the sex workers working in GB Road by presenting them alternate income choices. It is trying to provide them with a platform where they will not only be able to develop skills but also gain confidence and self respect.

**Nandan Singh Latwal**

Nandan considers himself curious by nature, as he likes to learn from surroundings. To Nandan, the most difficult question is to tell people about himself, but he is sure that he can put out some great stories of his experiences to bridge that gap. Camera is a wonderful and potential tool to experience perspectives differently. Through this project, he wants to create opportunities for young people to share their narratives- in and around the subject of Gender based Violence through the process of Participatory Video making. The narratives captured through the project will be used as a tool for advocacy and outreach, and the narrators will be leaders of the process as the own and author their stories.



**Sarita Shukla**

Sarita has been working with trans-gender groups for some years now and really takes them as her family. She had started working with an organization that was working for spreading awareness on HIV to transgender women, as she started working with them, she realized that the lives of transgender women is much beyond HIV and even the basic right to dignity, equality and access to government schemes and privileges are not available to them. Sarita, through her project is trying to connect back these women who have been abandoned by their families because of their identity back to their families. This acceptance from the family would eventually prevent them getting into sex work or begging and have a safe space to live in.

**Ravi Sinha**

The following quote speaks best for Ravi, "And somewhere there are engineers, helping others fly faster than sound. But, where are the engineers helping those who must live on the ground?" An IIT graduate Ravi discovered his passion for activity based and exploring how children learn as a NSS volunteer in college. He is inspired by Arvind Gupta, the Indian Toy maker. It is about making world a better place to live. That is what technology for. Ravi's initiative, Born2Blossom envisages making experiential science learning a reality for every child. It strives hard to keep lamp of 5Cs (Courage Confidence Curiosity Creativity Collaboration) elements burning inside every child. It is working in government school in Adchini where he and his team is mapping NCERT curriculum with activity based learning content. They are also preparing teacher's training materials and working with teachers to bring a sustainable change.





### **Rajnikanth Mishra**

An MBA in Sports management, a sports enthusiast, Rajnikanth has always believed that a sport is an important medium to have a wholesome development. Through his initiative called Sportathon, which aims at holistic development of children through specifically designed structured, age appropriate and low cost sports education program. He is working with 350 kids from low income schools of Delhi. Enable Teachers to inculcate physical development, healthy & hygienic habits, and awareness for the sports in community at large to make the generation fitter and healthier.

### **Vijay Shekhar**

Vijay describes himself as a social activist and a young change maker since he is a strong advocate of change in the Katputli colony to be brought out by young people. Being a person who has received education, one of the few from his community, he wants to share his education in the community. His project aims to enroll approx. 100 students (Age4-13) in government school. He is also trying to make the artist community of Kathputli colony aware that for wholesome development it is necessary to give equal importance of art and education. For this he is working towards creating a pool of volunteers who would be nurtured and mentored during the journey to carry this effort forward.



### **Mayank Gandhi**

Mayank is pursuing his Masters in Social Entrepreneurship from TISS. He has a prior experience of sales marketing but could not connect with his work. He has travelled to several communities, spent time with people and tried to understand their identity and stories. His focus is on how he can break fragile identities to be able to form one unified identity that denotes the overall fabric of the place. Through this project he is working on the a youth group's ability to come together and as an identity such that they can find reasons to come together in Tigaon on the outskirts of Delhi. He would like for this group to build this identity together such that the strong caste based identity that exists can be reduced and people can empathise with one another.

### **Yogesh Kumar**

Yogesh Kumar, a student of TISS in social entrepreneurship. He tried engineering, then a job in a multinational and then, heard about the program around social entrepreneurship and believed that this will give him right tools and network to create his big idea. He feels passionate about the issue of gender empowerment and was deeply moved by the Nirbhaya case in Delhi and that also motivated him to do something to address gender based violence. His project wants to see the trust being bridged between police and women in the community. The project is a two tier model an online platform and a people to people interaction one. A sabha on weekly basis would be conducted and their grievances would be addressed with help of south Delhi police (Lodhi colony & kotla mubarakpur police station). He is also keen on creating a mobile application that can be used to further the cause of women safety.







### **Mahesh Sagar**

Mahesh is pursuing his MSW from Delhi University. Belonging to Scheduled Caste group himself, he understands the state of exclusion in its most complex forms. He is a youth facilitator and has been an active part of the SMILE journey in Pravah. Mahesh has a passion for working with youth, he would like to build a group of young people in the Majnu ka Tila community who can come together, build their capacities to come together and strengthened one another such that they can take up issues in the community and be a support to one-another. He is trying to create a group of 14-15 young people who can take this forward.

### **Ajay Etikala**

Ajay feels his biggest passion for his life is just want to see people happy around and wants to make each and every effort so that they are smiling and happy. Ajay's project is helping marginal farmers of Delhi (NCR) to sell vegetables directly to the urban slum dwellers at an affordable price. He being the bridge between the two and connecting the seller (the farmers) and buyer (the slum dwellers, NGOs, urban shelter homes etc), is promoting incremental profit to farmers and good quality produce.



### **Aditi Rao**

Aditi brings with herself a diverse experience from arts and communication and has a brilliant writing skill that also leads her to give in depth thought on exclusion and norms attached to the same. Tassavur is a project that looks at increasing the positive development and sense of social responsibility in a group of 30 -50 teenagers from different social identity groups and backgrounds, through an intensive arts-based curriculum co-created and co-led with teenagers.

### **Anurag Hoon**

Anurag belongs to a Gujar family and while growing up, he has witnessed a lot of stereotypes associated with castes, gender etc. These experiences caused him to be deeply moved and curious about the issue of exclusionary practices in our society, and he aspires to propagate the message of peace and equality through his work and music. Music has been a passion for Anurag since childhood. Anurag's project is a band called Manzil Mystics, a group of 13 talented musicians who come together from different economical and social background and do music for social change. Manzil Mystic is trying to spread the message of peace and equality through music and also trying to establish music as a medium to spread the message of social inclusion in society. The group organize music gatherings "Chai, Coffee and Music" as well as "Street Music Mobs" in order to spread the message of peace and equality.





## Waqar Akhtar

Being a Muslim, Waqar has challenged most of the notions and perceptions people hold around him. He considers himself an artist, specifically a filmmaker, and all his beliefs find expression in his ability to communicate through his art. Ek Kadam – A step for Recognition - Through this project, Waqar is trying to train waste pickers (age group 12-18) how to handle a camera and make films on themselves and their lives. Which can be screened in the community, and through film festivals and social media he wants to bring people's attention towards the important role waste pickers play in our society.

## Anish Singh

Anish, a theatre teacher in Shiv Nadir school had joined Manzil (*Manzil is a non-profit organization providing a community and resources for local youth from low-income backgrounds to learn, teach, be creative, and see the world in new ways*) as a teenage-student to learn Maths and English. During the course of time and interaction with people from different fields, he learnt many things which became a part of his life and which he carries even today. My Role' is - Anish's experiment to work on "Gender, its practises and its implications in society and Self". He is trying to do so using theatre as a creative medium and dialogue. He is trying to explore the issue and unfold its dimensions and complexities with and for children and teenagers. Through theatre he is building an in depth experiential understanding on how gender and roles associated with it, impacts the thinking in the society and selves.



## Anoop Singh Rawat

Anoop, an Engineer from National Institute of Technology (NIT), is a person who can't bear inaction in and around himself. He believes that life will be meaningless if one is not living in a way which leaves an imprint. It becomes more important to act if one has the power and resources to do so. Anoop's initiative "Take5" is working towards filling the gap of caring and/or informed parent's presence in life of a child especially a child coming from a socio- economically weaker section of the society, in whose home there are many more concerns to deal with in everyday life. In this project, children from low income community are provided with a youth volunteer from different background and field of work. The project aims to build sensitivity amongst young people about difficulties and lives of those on the other side.

## Kamya Dargan

Kamya, after having many years of turbulence within the family and her surroundings has reached a stable level of thought and action where she has achieved a heightened level of consciousness in the journey within. She wants to explore a safe space for children from lower income backgrounds where they get the nurturing and learning environment every child deserves. 'My Room' is a project through which Kamya is promoting and supporting literacy and learning in the children of Barola community of Noida and to provide open access to information and ideas, to provide an environment to nurture aesthetic and creative expression especially to the age group between 3 to 6 years.







**Ajay Shekhar**

Ajay, an aspiring theatre artist comes from a tough background of Kathputli Colony. He has seen various forms of art since his childhood and has been himself following theatre with his troupe. He is passionate about issues that surround his colony which is renowned yet into ashes. He dreams of becoming a civil servant and be a voice of the voiceless through the powerful medium of theatre. He wants to develop community theatre to raise voice on the issue of women rights. The project, even if it does not reach a massive audience, will definitely leave a bend of creative impression on the locals on which they can build a voice of their own.

**Gargie Sharma**

In her endeavor to find meaning in her study of journalism, Gargie found her passion in development communication. Not only did she go on to pursue her post graduation in it but also took up exploring and working with various mediums of grassroots and community media. Gargie is exploring films as a medium of social change. She is using the technique of participatory film making by empowering the communities to bring their stories out and be able to speak about the issue that they face. Her film club is trying to bring youth from diverse backgrounds and engage them in discussions that eventually bring out stories of exclusion and inclusion.



**Mona Yadav**

Mona is a research scholar, psychologist, trained gender facilitator and an active volunteer in various social initiatives. She is a firm believer that the education must always be collaborated with practice and that has led her to being associated with social projects on education, youth empowerment and gender for almost 2 years. Mona aspires to work exhaustively on intervention towards gender based violence (GBV). She's taken up advocacy on reporting of GBV through the Pukar Project. Mona's advocacy and action-oriented campaign Pukar is proposing to increase the reporting of gender-based violence cases involving 2000 young people in Bhopal and/or Patna.

**Manish Kumar**

Manish is pursuing his Masters in Social Work from IGNOU and had done his BA from Magadh University. He has an experience of working with the homeless community for about 5 years and has been working with them on issues of legal rights, HIV awareness and managing shelter homes. He is trying to set up a group of members from the homeless community, build leadership abilities in them such that they can fight for their own rights.



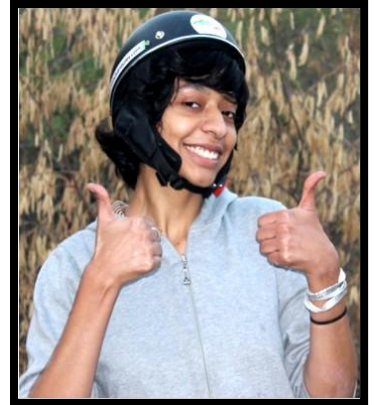


## **Mohammad Faisal Nawaz**

An ardent poet and blogger, Mohd. Faisal Nawaz's personal journey is a lesson in life. As he survives, rather gracefully, fighting scoliosis, Faisal provides counselling to those struggling with the disease. Foundation for Indian Integration and Rights has been working for socio-economic-physical and psychological empowerment of muslim girls. The programme mentors young women to discover their life's purpose, develop key leadership and vocational skills to instil a sense of independence through his vocational centre and advocacy.

## **Zeba Rizvi**

A professional social work degree did fuel Zeba Rizvi's ambitions in her steep turn to found "Arpan". Since then Zeba has revived her organisation and enthusiastically embraced life. Project Rainbow town of "Arpan" engages young people (college going young crowd) to come and become mentors to children (from low income household from urban slums in Delhi) and bridge the existing gap in education. Children get to learn not just art/craft and theatre but life skills to grow as confident citizens. By deploying youth volunteers to interact with these children, and conduct sessions the idea is to provide children a platform to creatively express themselves; encourage spirit of volunteerism in youth and promote social inclusion through Art.



## **Kristin Braddock**

An American Citizen herself, Kristin Braddock got passionate about anti-sex trafficking in college and started a community group on the college campus with ways to volunteer locally and globally. She originally came to India (4 years ago) after quitting a job in a corporate in America to volunteer with an NGO. Sewing New Futures (SNF) is a social enterprise that aims to economically empower women in inter-generational forced prostitution in Najafgarh in Delhi. For this purpose these girls are trained and hired at SNF. Through this model it aims to be sustainable through the sales of products in order to expand to serve more women from their target group. SNF parallelly runs an educational centre for children of these women.

## **Nikhil Kumar Gupta**

A software engineer by profession, Nikhil Gupta met with an accident which left him paralysed, until he came to know about and eventually became a member of, Wheelchair Rugby game. Since then not only has he become independent and efficient at his work but, now, is also a Managing Trustee of ESCIP TRUST INDIA and the Captain of Wheelchair Rugby team. Empowering Spinal Cord Injured Persons (ESCIP) aims to restore a vibrant social identity and independent living skills for those with disabilities, especially with spinal cord injuries. Through Rugby camps and online mentoring ESCIP will create ambassadors will effectively demonstrate to and mentor at least 60 other wheelchair users in Delhi (and surrounding areas), and Patna, the diverse possibilities that exist for them.







## Smriti Nagpal

An MBA student, Smriti Nagpal founded Atulyakala in 2013 where in she seeks to empower persons with hearing impairment. She works at Doordharshan Bhawan as news anchor for hearing impaired on the doordarshan channel. Inspired by her siblings for whom she learnt sign language, Smriti's final trigger came when she met an artist from the deaf community. Atulyakala is a for-profit social enterprise that is creating opportunities for deaf artists to grow, learn, share and live a life of dignity and pride. Atulyakala produces, gives design inputs, and provide market linkages by from selling online and offline art pieces done by hearing impaired artists, but they proudly differentiate from other NGOs. Each product that they create is duly signed by them to generate a sense of creation in them.

## Fahad Khan

A theatre resource person at National Association for Blind, Fahad Khan works with youth with the belief that performing arts is not a luxury, but is a strong medium to bring change. He believes that today's youth lacks a space which is created and lived with their own values, where they can explore, express and be what they want to be and not what they are expected to become. Fahad through his initiative, "Theatre for change" is creating a space for young people from various backgrounds and professions to come together, talk, discuss, seek support, create, share, reflect, act and devote some time to their passion while continuing with their other engagements. This space will bring a conviction on each of them to think and act and relate to their outer self while relating it with self story.



## Tasha Jaiswal

During graduation, Tasha Jaiswal got associated with several theatre groups and his college's dramatic society. However, he felt the lack of expressing his own thoughts and ideas through them. He got this space during SMILE In-tern-ship with Pravah, where he could work with a group of 15 young people from the community to create a play on RTI. To create a hub of young people engaging with the issue of social inclusion/exclusion such as GBV, sexuality and inclusion in general through different forms of theatre, discussions, music and social interventions in different communities of Delhi. His theatre group Mohalla Bol attempts to create a youth-led space where they engage with hitherto marginalized and excluded communities, through mediums of theatre and conversations and share it with the larger audience.

## Changeloomers' Profiles



### Aasif Anwar

**Location: Nalanda, Bihar**



An undergraduate (B.Tech) in Mechanical Engineering from Nalanda College of Engineering, Aasif belongs to middle class family of Darbhanga, Bihar. Living in Bihar Sharif (Nalanda), he is interested in education sector and is bringing about significant changes in the same. The objective of his initiative is to create a positive space where children from different socio-economic backgrounds come together crossing the boundaries of gender and class disparities, can learn without any fear and anxiety. He quotes that “Everyone is blossoming together, where no one is teacher or everyone is teacher, where there is love and children can become creative”. He is trying to reinforce the education system and make it more uniformed and accessible. Through this project he is providing a space to asking question, building critical thinking skills and strengthening relationships while learning.

### Kahkasha Rehman

**Location: Patna, Bihar**

Kahkasha comes from a Muslim household in Patna. She feels that girls don't get equal opportunities to education or chances to develop their life skills. She takes it from her own experiences of having a very difficult time to get education and life skills required by young girls to be good leaders. Kahkasha is running an adolescent Muslim girls club, where in she talks to them about the challenges and issues of teenage, changes that happen in the body, mentors them and guides them through the questions that arise at this age and also develop their life skills. She is in the process of creating leaders who would then work with more adolescent girls in the future.



### Munna Kumar

**Location: Rohtas, Bihar**



Munna is a grass root community worker and interested to work for the dalit youth as he understands the challenges faced by them. He has been sensitizing them about their rights and improving their education. He is also associated with a grass root organization Jan Adhikar Kendra. Munna has started the process to develop the dalit community in 20 villages through education. He is getting 100 youth in his initiative and focusing on building a dalit youth committee. He has selected Chenari block to roll out the initiative, where he is engaging youth in the age group of 14 to 25 years and building their leadership quality. His ultimate aim is to raise the awareness of rights and empower this community.

### Manoj Kumar Nirala

**Location: Patna, Bihar**

Manoj has a Dalit background, through his personal experiences as well as his exposure through working with various NGOs he has developed a deep understanding of social exclusion and is passionate about promoting social inclusion. He realizes that he can do this only by the wholesome development of Dalit youth. Through his project, Manoj is committed to make 20 youth emerge as community leaders with good understanding of political and legal processes, social schemes, rights and entitlements as well as basic computer skills, with an underlying orientation of uplifting their communities and bringing about social inclusion.





**Ranjeet Kumar Luiyan**  
**Location: Lakhisarai, Bihar**



Ranjit is the second person from the Musahar community, to who have passed his matriculation. His vision is to start an organization to promote development of his community. He wants to create awareness in Dalit community about the importance of education as he himself belongs to Musahar community – which faces extreme challenges of poverty and social exclusion being a Dalit group (schedule caste) in India. The project focuses on children and adolescents who have dropped out of school and are in the age group of 10 to 15 years as these children lend a helping hand to the parents and child labour rate is high in the community. Ranjit is linking these children with government schools and getting them enrolled and monitoring their progress as well as regularity in school. He feels this sustained tracking will help to decrease the number of drop-out cases from schools.

**Siddhartha Bhatia**  
**Location: West Champaran, Bihar**

Siddharth is a very adventurous person who believes in exposure through life experiences. He has learnt a lot from trying and failing and by taking risks. He was working in Delhi but left his work as he felt passionately connected to finding solutions for the rural set up. The project he is presently running aims to get clean Arsenic-free drinking water in a backward community of 20 households in Khap Tola village, West Champaran district through sustainable community based arsenic management system and building awareness among people for health impacts of arsenic due to continued exposure through drinking water.



**Sneha Kumari**  
**Location: Punpun, Bihar**



Sneha belongs to a Dalit household and has been a role model in her community. She dreams of becoming a health trainer. She has faced difficulties in her childhood and married when she was 13 years. Due to child marriage her education got hampered. Overcoming struggles she completed her intermediate after marriage. Her aim is to stop child marriage and sexual abuse of girls for which she is working with a group of 25 adolescent girls. She is trying to sensitize the girls, their parents and community about the ill-effects due to child marriage in their health and education. She is also trying to work on building their confidence through football.

**Uma Kumari**  
**Location: Patna, Bihar**

Having a Dalit background Uma has faced a lot of restrictions and bondages being a girl from that community and happens to be the first educated girl in her village. This need felt by her to see girls being independent, earning and taking decisions made her start sewing classes especially for Dalit girls who are most deprived of rights. Uma strongly believes that economic independence of Dalit girls is the way to establish them on the firm ground to counter double exclusion, of being a Dalit and of being a woman. She works towards equipping young girls of skills that can help them be independent and contributing members of the family. She attempts to reach out especially to those who are unable to afford payment to get training in tailoring and stitching so that these girls can do small scale work even in their homes.





**Sugandha Munshi**  
**Location: Patna, Bihar**

Sugandha Munshi has had a breadth of exposure in the development sector especially, in the area of education and gender. Her organization Priyadarshini is working on gender rights in Bihar. With the objective to create awareness and bring about change at all levels especially in parents on the issues of gender and education, the proposed project engages 20 low-income households in Patna. The initiative seeks to create ownership in the community for the children on child centric learning outcomes and gender equity led by their Youth volunteers called "Shapers". They do campaigns and sensitization through different forums.

**Pratima Kumari**  
**Location: Patna, Bihar**

Pratima Kumari is a rare instance of Dalit woman in a leadership role in Bihar. She faced lots of difficulties in her personal life. An early marriage leading to drop out of studies and severe health problem fuelled Pratima's determination later to address the issue of child marriage and forming her own initiative "Gaurav Gramin Vikas Manch". She is working for women empowerment through the formation of self help groups of adolescent girls and women and disseminating the information related to health and education. She hopes to create more role models from the community. Through her initiative she is nurturing Dalit women leaders in different spaces and creating a model of female dalit leadership.



**Jacinta Kerketta**  
**Location: Simdega, Jharkhand**

Jacinta belongs to Ho community (Schedule Tribe). Since childhood she has felt the need for and lack of gender equality which her mother and her sisters along with her faced in the family from taking decisions. The decisions have been always taken by the men in the family which she feels is very unfair. She has been passionate about expressing through writing. Her keen interest is to enable girls to express themselves by writing. She is trying to build the writing and photography skills of 25-30 adolescent girls. She wants to make them feel independent and express themselves freely.

**Jyoti Lakra**  
**Location: Ranchi, Jharkhand**

Jyoti Lakra belongs to the Oraon tribal background and relates to the challenges and exclusion faced by the community. She has an immense experience in social sector including action aid and likes. Jyoti is also a poet from heart and very beautifully brings out most serious issues through a few lines of her poetry. She is working to empower the children specially the child labours in sukarhutu and badhu villages in Ranchi through various means of arts like poetry, paint, games, reading so that they start telling their stories and feel confident enough to raise their concerns with their parents. She is doing so in collaboration with parents and three SMCs of that area.







**Onkar Vishwakarma**  
**Location: Kodarma, Jharkhand**

Onkar belongs to the lohar community (Other Backward Classes) and has been a child laborer due to difficult financial situation at home. Onkar is working to bring change in the Birhor society and wants to create a model child friendly society where in 80 children from schedule tribes and Dalit background are learning how to read and write, take decisions, learn life skills and get creative skills as well. He is creating a space for the children to express freely and encourage the restoration of Birhor tribe's cultural and traditional practices.

**Sandeep Minj**  
**Location: Gadhwah, Jharkhand**

Sandeep comes from a Schedule Tribe background and has studied till graduation. Coming from a remote area of Jharkhand, he believes in empowering people so that they demand for their respective rights as a collective. Sandeep is engaging and empowering youth groups from Oraon tribe in the villages of Parsawar and Bargad Panchayats on PESA and PRIs so that they can form collectives, lead discussions and demands of the grassroots in the Gram Sabha and various available platforms to ask for their rights.



**Sumit Gunjan**  
**Location: Ranchi, Jharkhand**

An MBA, Sumit has a passion and love towards art & crafts. Never bothered about grades but only about knowledge, Sumit's idea of a simple life made him quit the opportunity to pursue a lucrative financial career and got him back working at his native place. Sumit's initiative "Sakhi" is working to empower ST girls and women and inspire them to address trafficking and early marriage issues. The initiative is supporting young women to become economically independent and then move into the journey of becoming self-dependent. Under changelooms With.in, he is working with girls of 'Sakhi' to form a small scale enterprise taking into consideration the interests, skills, local context and local wisdom; setting up a crafts unit with predominantly bamboo crafts in the village.

**Jairam Hessa**  
**Location: Tundo, Jharkhand**

Belonging to the Ho community (Schedule Tribe) himself, Jairam feels very passionately about doing some work for the people of his own community and increasing their access to education in Tundo district. Jairam is working with collectives and at each level of the power structure starting from within the community, bringing students together, youth at village level, people of the village at the gram Sabha level and gram Sabhas together at the panchayat level to bring about a systemic impact. Through his work on education he is trying to get a group of tribal youth activated under the name "KULA". His ultimate aim is that KULA takes up a primary role in initiating change at the village level.





**Shadab Ansari**

**Location: Dhanbad, Jharkhand**

Shadab is an advocate practicing in Dhanbad Court and is also associated with legal advocacy organizations like Centre for Social Justice and HRLN. He and his friend provide free legal aid to the marginalized and deprived sections of the society. Through his project, Shadab is trying to fulfill the educational needs of children through two learning centres, one called Prayas at Oriya Patti another called Disha at Wasseyapur, both in Dist-Dhanbad. He is focusing to main stream the working children of their project locality and offer after school supplementary education to those children who have been lagging behind due to poor socio- economic circumstances.

**Anita Gadi**

**Location: Ranchi, Jharkhand**

Having faced domestic violence at home, Anita Gadi decided to raise her voice and take stand on all sorts of violence and atrocities against woman. Anita with a group of other women founded Jharkhandis Adivasi Women Association (JAWA) to address rights and entitlement issues of women and is working towards nurturing leadership especially among ST and SC communities. Anita wants to inspire and nurture leadership especially among scheduled tribe and scheduled caste communities so that they can stand up and unite against discrimination and violence against women. Through her initiative, Anita is uniting women into groups and empowering them by instilling within them an ability to negotiate and bargain to lead a decent life





## Changeloomers' Profiles



**Manju Dhak**

**Location: Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh**

Manju is a diploma PGDRD from IGNOU. Her own experience of gender discrimination when she was duped into getting married has informed the way she perceives independence. Manju is working with tribal women (age group of 18-35) of Devigad Village who out of poverty migrate to fulfil financial needs of the family. Manju is trying to prevent this migration to happen at the first place and find out different avenues for livelihoods. To start with she has created a list of youth who are likely to migrate this season followed by collectivising them into groups. She is trying to explore different livelihoods options for these groups and connecting the groups with different government run entrepreneurial schemes such as sewing-stitching training; organic farming training; cottage industry training etc. These women are also finding a space through these groups to discuss various social and personal issues of their own on which they might also take action on such as dowry, and domestic violence etc.

**Vikram Singh Ahake**

**Location: Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh**

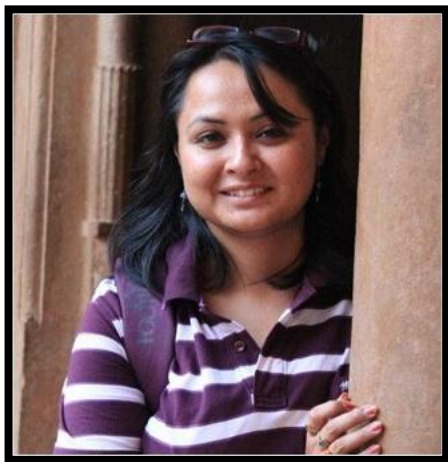
A health facilitator and a community worker with NRHM, Vikram was highly inspired by student engagement in governance and joined student politics in collage. Since 2013 until now he is the block president in Chhindwara for NSU. Vikram has seen the impact of migration in his own family where the women get exploited and the children don't have any support while growing up. To address this issue of migration and its ill-effects Vikram has started a 'suchna kendra' which is run by the community youth and acts as a connecting link between those who have migrated and those who are staying back. It is like an information bank for those who wants to work outside about the actual work condition, where to live, whom to connect in distress, about various relevant government schemes etc.



**Vivek Rajput**

**Location: Betul, Madhya Pradesh**

Vivek has just finished his MSW and has been working closely with tribal communities in Madhya Pradesh for the past 3 years. Prior becoming a Changeloomer, Vivek was working on a PACS supported project with local ST youth on their right and entitlement issues. Through the Changelooms programme, Vivek is building leadership abilities of tribal youth and inspire them to become the change agents within their households and eventually in the communities. To make this a reality he is trying to work with 50 young people in Betul district through organised meetings, sharing of IEC materials on different social issues and actions, information about various career options which is enabling them to engage with their own abilities and developing the self and helping them to take up social action.



**Archana Relan**

**Location: Seoni, Madhya Pradesh**

Pursuing her M.A. in Social Entrepreneurship from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, Archana's entrepreneurial expertise is matched with the experience she has had on the field during the early years of her higher education in Agriculture and Technology. Under Changelooms programme, Archana is working towards making millet production by rural women sustainable, not just by generating profits but also by developing confidence among these women so that they can take over the business after 5 years on their own. The project is a rich mix of ground research and execution of a millet production and marketing unit led by women.

**Firoj Khan**

**Location: Harda, Madhya Pradesh**

Firoj, an M.A. in Political Science and a PG Diploma in Computer Application, feels the importance of right kind education in shaping one's personality and shaping the thought process. Coming from a Muslim background he realises that girls, in Muslim community, are only sent to Madrasas and thus it is very much important to expand the scope of what is taught within these spaces. Through this project, he is trying to decentralise the power of religious knowledge from Maulvis by creating a greater interface between schools and Madarsas, conversations in the community, and trying to create an interesting learning space within Madarsas and also have more girl children enrolled in schools.



**Bali Jagat**

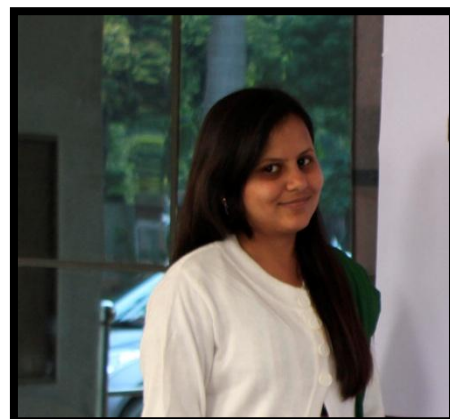
**Location: Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**

Bali strongly feels against lack of freedom for women and from her own bitter experiences wants to take on violence against them. Bali is trying to create a space for adolescent girls where they can experience freedom and learn to demand their rights. She is doing this by preparing 20 adolescent girls from Gond tribe on how to take some crucial decisions of their lives. She puts it beautifully, "whether they want to study or not, marry or not, should solely be their decision and no one else. I only want that they make informed choices. They must know that they can be free."

**Nishtha Saudawat**

**Location: Harda, Madhya Pradesh**

Nishtha has been an active NSS volunteer in college. Being from a community that holds conservative views on women, she is able to understand the plight of women and young girls in her community. Nishtha has been working on the issue on gender equality from her days in college. She feels passionately about the freedom of expression of women and how to enable them to take up opportunities in public platforms. She wants to be able to create spaces for public engagement for girls.







**Manohar Ranawat**

**Location: Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**

A B.Com student, Manohar is working with children and youth and trying to actively engage them by creating an independent platform for expression and action through theatre, social campaigns, creative arts etc. He is trying to create a space where youth can develop their understanding of personal and social issues and thereby gear towards social, economic, political and behavioural change. He is trying to form two youth groups and resource centres in the two Bastis of Bhopal.

**Niharika Pansoriya**

**Location: Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**

Niharika has just finished her senior secondary and is a strong believer of child rights. On witnessing a child being raped, she wanted to create a collective and independent platform for children to provide a process to realise their rights, such that children take cognisance of and become active participants in this process. To make it happen she is forming a child right collective wherein she makes them aware socially and politically. This children collective organises meetings, write articles, organise melas and community interfaces and takes up different issues to address child rights from time to time.



**Nandini Patidar**

**Location: Indore, Madhya Pradesh**

An engineering student in Indore, Nandini has always longed for new experiences and learning which brought her to Anhad Pravah where she has been volunteering for a year. It was this experience that got her interested in youth development. A reflection of her own journey through her project “fill the gap” Nandini is trying to reach out to young people and take them on a journey from ‘self to society’. To create an inclusive space for young students in Indore, to make them realise that it is important for them to know their passion, which they are, and what are the issues around them. Nandini feels that the process of including oneself and the ‘other’ goes hand in hand.



**Rajani Gour**

**Location: Harda, Madhya Pradesh**

Rajani has fought great odds throughout her growing up years for her access to livelihood and education. A self defence trainer herself, Rajni has won gold in international karate championship held in Nepal. She has setup a centre where girls come and learn the art of self defence through *karate*, as well as have a space to share their issues and learn self-dependence. This space fosters a positive atmosphere and helps boost the confidence among young women. Rajani is also trying to create livelihood options for these women through her skill in bamboo jewellery making.





**Vishan Devda**

**Location: Harda, Madhya Pradesh**

Vishan comes from a small village in Harda, Madhya Pradesh, with a predominance of tribal and scheduled caste residents. Vishan who himself belongs to Korku tribe, is the first educated person from his village. Vishan is working with the youth of his area and is organizing them into collectives. He is creating a youth group in each of 5 villages and trying to develop a youth resource centre in these villages. The youth resource centres will enable the youth to develop their own skills and competencies while also serve as a fertile ground for addressing local community issues.

**Tousif Alishah**

**Location: Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh**

Coming from a backward muslim household, from a very young age Tousif Alishah had to fend for his own livelihood and learn things the hard way. The severe malnutrition, unemployment and large scale migration in the Korku community fuelled his passion and inspiration for bringing about social change. His project aims to develop employable skills amongst the Korku tribal community members and increase local employment opportunities. Tousif aims to establish “Hunnar ki Pathshaala” in each of 3 villages of the Khalwa region in Khandwa district where 100 individuals will learn a trade of their choice and at least 20 youth would convert from being a ‘Kreta’ (buyer) to being a ‘Vikreta’ (seller). In addition, he is also facilitating the development of a platform for tribal labourers to raise their collective voice and avoid migratory exploitation.



**Girish Mahale**

**Location: Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh**

An M.Tech graduate from IIT and with a decent job package working career with IBM Girish Mahale came back to his home town, Pandurna a remote block in Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh to start the initiative. He wanted to start something to improve the quality of education for the local communities. Using science activity programs and model demonstration Pratyaya EduResearch Lab instils and builds the capacity of local teachers by engaging youth in that area, thereby creating a local ecosystem of education. Through the centre he makes scientific experiments relate to day to life in scheduled caste and scheduled tribes students hostels. The centre also organises awareness camps, fact finding and enquiry commissions on dowry and domestic violence in the local villages with the help of these hostel students and the graduate volunteers.





## Changeloomers' Profiles



**Rizwan**

**Location: Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh**

A post graduate in Mass Communication, Rizwan has been working for more than 8 years in the mass media and is deeply concerned about issues of gender, stereotypes and discrimination in the society. His passion towards addressing the discrimination issues had led him to take up advocacy in many forms with various grassroots communities. Now based in Sitapur, he has initiated a media campaign named "socialkhabar.com" to address safety for women/girls in the community. His project aims at building the capacities of young girls and boys of slum and rural areas to build them as community reporters who will be trained to report harassment of women and discrimination issues at the local level.

**Shivani Srivastava**

**Location: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**

Pursuing her Masters in Social work from Lucknow University, Shivani belongs to a small town called Konch in Bundelkhand. Working as a volunteer with YES Foundation in Lucknow has inspired her to initiate a project on Gender based violence called 'Voice Up'. It is an online campaign against Gender Based Violence that aims to work through making short films, taking public actions, photographs and social media campaigning. The campaign aims to explore the realities of gender norms and invite young people to join the dialogue, develop youth leadership against gender based violence and make efforts to encourage youth to be an active change anchor in such discourse.



**Vasudev Vajood**

**Location: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**

Vasudev belongs to a middle class family where he grew up as a loved and pampered child. He was in school when his mother passed away which led him into severe depression and a medical follow up for a long time. His and his family's struggle to come out of this long phase of depression, made him realise the fact that there are so many youths around him who go through stress and depression at various level for various reasons without having been able to express and get support. His project is trying to create a space for youth of age 24 years to 32 years which can address stress and depression by realizing the value of a good mental health by story-telling, sharing, and expressing oneself and also by referral in some cases. To meet this objective, Vasudev has created a platform and a group 'stress anonymous' in Lucknow University with these young people along with a pool of advisors, mental health experts by his side.

**Stuti Mishra**

**Location: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**

A creative person and passionate individual, Stuti always wanted to do things differently. Coming from a protective environment she has been able to challenge the relationships within her family and negotiated with them to explore the learning opportunities for her. The project is trying to reach out to struggling, less-privileged, unorganized and migrated artisans and project their talent to the masses. This is done through capacity building and support services to generate livelihood opportunities for artisans by providing them with better market reach and actual value of their art work. She is specially focusing on *jari jardosi* artisans of Lucknow.





### **Vijay Bharat**

**Location: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**

As a response to the unequal and unjustified caste system, Vijay changed his last name to Bharat. Vijay strongly feels the need to address the caste based discrimination in our country and that young people can take charge of advocating a discrimination free society. As a student of social work Vijay is trying a space for young people and volunteers to generate and engage with such discussion and thought. Under Changelooms programme, Vijay wants to address the parent children relationship in the present days' context. He is trying to create a space within schools for children who can freely talk and share about their feelings, by engaging with children through various life skills training. He is also doing regular teacher- parents-students engagements through various interfaces. Vijay is also giving career related information to the young individual specially belonging to the excluded groups of the society such as scheduled caste, scheduled tribe Muslim etc.

### **Virendra Kumar**

**Location: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**

After pursuing B. Tech, Virendra worked with the private sector for some time. While working he felt a mismatch of his aspiration, dream and his work. His project idea was triggered from his own experience of not being guided about his education and career choices. Leaving his corporate job, Virendra is currently into farming, where his passion and interest lies. His project under Changelooms is trying to give right information about career choices among the rural youth especially dalit youth so that it will help them in their career decisions leading to educational, economical empowerment. In his village, he has mobilized the rural youth to volunteer for a rural youth resource centre that would cater to such needs of youth. For this, he has already prepared a group of young volunteers who bring their computers that they got from government under the government rural youth scheme, connected them with internet and aware the other youth and other community about various government schemes, and opportunities and link them with these.



### **Chanda Begum**

**Location: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**

Being the youngest amongst her six siblings, Chanda spent her childhood in extreme poverty where she was sent to a nearby Madarsa to study. Her mother's motivation inspired her to study further even after her marriage and complete her graduation. Under the Changelooms programme, she is trying to work with women in her community on health, livelihood and gender awareness through a commonly shared platform and by running an activity center for women between 14 – 30 years in her community. Her project aims to make these women financially independent by establishing a merchandise unit where women from the community will be involved in stitching and embroidery. Along with it, in this activity centre she is trying to develop the understanding of these women on reproductive health issues, family planning and link them to medical units for regular health check-ups etc.





**Ranjesh Kumar Singh**  
**Location: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**

Migrated from a different state for medical treatment, Ranjesh's family started to live permanently in Lucknow. Abandoned by his father in the childhood, he had to pick up garbage and work as a domestic help in many houses. In spite of this, he had the zeal to move forward that made him continue his studies and work for the rights and identity of the rag pickers in Lucknow. His project is trying to ensure the rights of rag pickers community focussing on their health. For ensuring the health security, his project aims to provide gloves, masks and aprons to the rag pickers by ensuring the inclusion of such products in government programs.

**Shama Parveen**  
**Location: Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**

Belonging to a conservative Muslim family, Shama got inspiration from her sister who was the first woman in her community to do MBA and work in a renowned organization. After being denied her will to pursue graduation by her family, she joined her mother in tailoring work. Her project is trying to develop a skill cum literacy centre for drop out adolescent girls from Chhittanpura basti in Varanasi with Muslim and SC groups. Her project strives to create a cadre of change agents who will influence change process in the community and develop similar change agents to join hands in this empowering process.



**Sharad Kumar**  
**Location: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**

An RTI worker, Sharad filed an RTI that showed a number of 930 beggars in the streets of Lucknow. This figures led him question the rights and entitlements that these beggars avail under any social welfare schemes and also a concern about their general rights. His project is trying to work for the rights of beggars by making them self independent and to ensure their rehabilitation by giving them skill based trainings. He is working with the beggars across all ages by helping the ones who have crossed over 60 years stay in old house and ensuring they are provided the facilities needed. He is enrolling the ones below 14 years of age in Beggars Rehabilitation centre and advocating for their rights to the government.



**Rahul Kumar**  
**Location: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**

Pursuing his masters in social work from Lucknow University, Rahul's project idea was triggered from his experience of seeing the so called "lower caste" getting discriminated by the so called "upper caste" groups of the society. From the age of 8 years he could sense the discrimination on the basis of caste which got clearer as he grew up. He is passionate about working on removing the evils of caste system. Through his project he wants to work with the SC communities' youths to provide them dignity in the society by making them aware, by releasing their stress of discrimination and to give the knowledge of Panchayat and what role they can play in it. He wants to include Dalit girls and boys in the Gram Panchayat.





**Madhulika**

**Location: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**

Having worked in the development sector for quite a long time, Madhulika has a natural instinct of taking people along and addressing their problems. She aspires to enhance her understanding of gender especially in the context of urban poverty. Through the Changelooms programme, she is ensuring and advocating the fundamental rights of women, dalit and minorities who dwell in migrated urban slums in Lucknow. Through this project she wants to make an effort to bring together and collectivize domestic workers who can advocate for their own rights and social security.

**Humaira Khan**

**Location: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**

Humaira, who used to be afraid of blood has changed her opinion after one of the real life incident when she realised the importance of blood in saving one's life. Her project is trying to set up an effective network of blood donors for the marginalized sections of the society by creating a group of young people from 16- 35 years of age who can readily start donating blood to the marginalized sections in case of emergency. This includes sharing of data with the marginalised community and unstructured labours so they can directly reach out to the donors in time of need. Her project is trying to address the fears and myths associated with blood donation through donation camps and by spreading awareness about the blood groups.



**Arshi Khan**

**Location: Farrukhabad, Uttar Pradesh**

A true inspiration story for the girls in her community Arshi comes from a family of weaver background. She is one of the first generation learners in her community who is pursuing her higher studies and working to empower other girls in her community. Through her Changelooms project, Arshi is trying to educate 25 young girls and enable them to earn livelihood so that they are respected in the community and more and more girls can draw inspiration from them. Through a drop in centre Arshi is not only trying to cater these girls' educational needs but also the overall leadership skills by engaging the girls in different life skill trainings, exposure visits, connecting to experts from various fields.

**Mohammad Amir**

**Location: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**

Amir belongs to a migrated family that started living in one of the Lucknow slums. As an individual, he is quite energetic and he has passion to work for the youth in order to help them experience a transformation of self. Through this project he is trying to work with the children living in urban slums who are into drug and substance abuse by making them aware of the ill effects of using drugs and creatively engage with them. He is trying to rehabilitate these children especially in the age of 8-14 years and streamline them with the mainstream education system. He has exciting ideas of working with children through a platform called Baal Manch where children will eventually come out with publication in their community by playing small reporters and create nukad naataks to spread awareness about the issues existing in the community.





**Abhishek Balodi****Location: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**

Abhishek Balodi's life went through transition when he attended Pravah's SMILE INTURNSHIP where he experienced the joy of bringing change on the ground. He is passionate about working on the issue of women safety. Safe Safar-Safe Street aims at providing security to women passengers while commuting in auto rickshaws. Auto rickshaw drivers are sensitized about the sexual harassment that women go through while commuting and they are empowered through working with them on their health, education and dignity to ensure that they take stand against violence.

**Ghufran Siddiqui****Location: Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh**

The events of 1992 shook Ghufran Siddiqui deeply. He started taking part in activities relating with peace and communal harmony and eventually co-founded "Awadh Peoples Forum". Being of the opinion that migrant unorganised labourers and youth face maximum brunt of incidents involving violence, his initiative works especially with them so that they can play active part in strengthening communal harmony. The youth will become active agents in working with unorganised labourers and involve actively in getting registered 200 unorganised labours in Faizabad, in the Labour Board.

**Mohit Raj****Location: Barielly, Uttar Pradesh**

Mohit Raj was pursuing his MBA, and instead of going for a plush corporate job, he chose to found an organization focussing on providing quality education to underprivileged children of migrant informal labour. TYCIA operates 2 centres in Dwarka region of Delhi, where they run a 30 month curriculum with the students before connecting them to mainstream education. TYCIA also engages numerous youth as volunteers for weekend activities with children. TYCIA is working towards establishing a volunteer base in Barielly, Uttar Pradesh to effectively advocate for education of children who are indulged in Zari Child Labour. These volunteers will engage in research as well as social action.

**Nadeem Siddiqui****Location: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**

Nadeem Siddiqui an MSW and MA in Urdu from Lucknow University has been a peer educator and social campaigner throughout his life. He started Slum-arise, an initiative led and nurtured by a group of young volunteers in 2013 and caters to the educational needs of underprivileged women and children from urban slums in Lucknow. Nadeem's effort is to unite and strengthen community under "pehchan evam adhikar manch" and empower so that the community can address and claim their legal identity and basic needs on their own. He has started a bridge school at the basti which will mainstream drop out children of the slum, nurture their educational needs in their bridge school centre at the slum, and create awareness about right to education.



**Mehroon Nisa****Location: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**

Coming from a conservative Muslim household of a small town of Balrampur district, Mehroon came to Lucknow to pursue her higher studies and pursue her dream of becoming financially independent. Over the years, she has gained lots of experience by working with various organizations and eventually also started her own initiative that works with working children and women from Muslim community in Lucknow. Through her project Mehroon is trying to educate children of 5-14 years who have dropped out due to their involvement with financials of the house, by giving them a crash course in order to make them at par with other students. She also feels passionately about the financial independence of women who are mothers of these children and feels the mothers' additional income and economic independence can stop these children to work and drop out of education system. In order to do so, she provides skill based training to these women to be able to create a strong support system for themselves.



## Changeloomers' Profiles



**Riju Banerjee**

**Location: Kolkata, West Bengal**

Riju is a student of Mass Communication and has studied throughout in Kolkata. He has been observant of the ways in which gender stereotypes are formed and lived right from childhood. He comes with a perspective that one needs to be convinced about who one is and only then he/she can connect with society. His own experience of recognising his own identity, accepting it for himself and then moving on to his life has triggered the idea of the project for him. He is trying to use a film as a medium to make a community of 50-100 young people from an urban background challenge their own notions of gender and observe the stereotypes that they've been holding. The film is based on the gender stereotypes as held by school and college students between the age group of 16-25. As a follow up to this he wants to screen the film in schools, colleges and corporate, conduct discussions that could stimulate the audience to challenge their own gender based stereotypes.

**Pranabesh Maiti**

**Location: Sundarbans, West Bengal**

Pranabesh came to Kolkata to do an M.A. from University of Calcutta although he belongs to an agro based-family in Sagar Island of Sunderbans. It's his deep connection with his community that made him return and work for the development of the area and focus on the sustainable way to do the same. He is trying to create livelihood opportunities for people who are primarily dependent on natural resources of Sundarbans. The Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe communities of Sundarbans are especially devoid of rights and access to power and basic utilities. His initiative Sundarbans Green Environment Association, SGEA, has its base in engaging man and nature in a meaningful way so that biodiversity as well as the cultural diversity of the region can flourish together. He has been strengthening youth groups and women groups to come together to work for mangrove plantations in the area.



**Debgopal Mondal**

**Location: Birbhum, West Bengal**

Debgopal is from a middle class background and is an effeminate male representing LGBTQ community. He has faced discrimination in the years he was growing up and this has made him strive for social inclusion of the LGBTQ community. DebgoPal's project aims to showcase the plight of the LGBTQ community through a film. In the process he is grooming ten youth in the art of film making. It is also a space for young people from the mainstream and LGBTQ community to come together and break stereotypes that they hold about each other. These young people are within the age of 18-28, from Mayureswar- Block II, he is building their skills and also working on their attitude and aims to see a behavioural change in them about how they engage with each other. He wants these young people to continue making films on issues that are important to them and remain connected to the cause and the LGBTQ community.



**Devarchan Banerjee**

**Location: South 24 Parganas, West Bengal**

Devarchan is a student pursuing his engineering degree. He has varied interests like quizzing, debating, social service initiatives. As President of the Rotaract Club in Heritage College currently, he and the group have been involved in supporting social enterprises and exploring ways of contributing to social service sector. He aspires to set up an organic salad bar as a social enterprise. The project he is running currently aims to improve the financial condition of the farmers by forming cooperatives that can come together and be linked to brands that directly sell their products. He is finding native grains like Lilavati paddy which are threatened, but have low requirements for fertilizers and pesticides and promoting them in urban markets. Through his project he wants to run a meet the producer kind of programme encouraging young people to live with farmer communities and recognise the effort in physical labour.

**Saikat Roy**

**Location: Kolkata, West Bengal**

He has been a student of Political Science and is currently pursuing his PhD. He has always been interested in social issues especially those pertaining to adolescents and youth. He does also have an interest in writing and art and would want to create a platform for young people through the same. He believes in dreams and feels that it is a right of every young person to be able to do so. Having worked with underprivileged youth and adolescents; he feels that dreams and aspirations are not given priority amidst economic and social deprivation. The lack of a positive engagement in society leads to these young people to move towards anti-social activities. The project is preparing 20 youth to be merged into the mainstream society through their talent of literature and art. These young people are within the age group of 14-19 years from Dum Dum Cantonment region residing beside the rail line.



**Rahool Goswami**

**Location: Kolkata, West Bengal**

Rahool has been passionate about writing and painting right from childhood. He is also fond of music; he formed a Bengal Music Band Group, relating music with different social issues. Having worked in an NGO at a young age, earning a living, he started feeling the need to create a space where he could connect likeminded young people to build a larger voice that can be heard by the people in power and help to bring in positive changes in society. "Youth Led Media" is about a Youth Magazine, a space for youth to raise their voice and views to bring social changes. He is working to connect and include youth from different spaces of society and to build a united voice. Rahool's choice of area is North and South 24 Parganas along with Kolkata which is focused on ensuring inclusion. Working with youth from different segments of society using writing and painting as a tool will ensure a creative space for these youth which in effect will work as a way to collect their voices.





**Sidhartha Talukdar**  
**Location: Kolkata, West Bengal**

Sidhartha has done his graduation in Business Management and has been passionate about art. While working he wished he could connect back with art someday and use its power to bring about social change. He feels that art can help one communicate when words can't and he has gained a lot of confidence through this. He is very patient and feels he has a lot to learn about the development sector as he has recently taken a break from the corporate. His project "Horizon" is using painting as a therapy to help children who are excluded for various reasons – economic, caste, and gender. As a process exclusion always creates a mark in our mind, on the deeper self which is not always clearly understood rather gets manifested in terms of other violence asserted by the victim themselves. He is executing this idea at present with children in drop in centres in Kolkata. He is focusing on enabling these children to develop their drawing, painting as a skill and also being able to communicate with confidence and share their thoughts more freely.

**Tumpa Adhikary**  
**Location: Kolkata, West Bengal**

Tumpa has grown up in the red light area of Kolkata witnessing a lot of violence as a child. She understands the silence of those children who have been the victims of sexual assault not only by people outside but also by people of his/her own family. She is very bright, full of life and wants to spread happiness in the lives of the children who have not had a chance to have a secure childhood. She is enabling 25 children from Khidderpur slum and Munshiganje red light area to be able to talk about the fears of their lives as well as of their peers, leading to better protection mechanism from sexual abuse. She is helping them to articulate if such incidents happen with them ensuring that they will not go unheard. She has been a comic artist and is using this art form along with theatre to create a platform where children can express their stories through fun and laughter to the society.



**Toriqul Hasan**  
**Location: Nadia, West Bengal**

Toriqul is from a Muslim household, having done his MSW, PG Diploma in Health Management, he is passionate about working with adolescents. He is trying to ensure that majority of the adolescent boys are also within the programme of SABLA, at nil to very minimum cost. He is trying to include boys from Muslim households in the project since he feels they do not have access. Through the Youth Intervention Centre's help he is trying to build the capacity of 30 youth to form a social change agents group. He wants to enable these selected youths of the programme to be able to visualize change and be aware of their identity. In his opinion, in this capacity building programme under SABLA, it is a requirement that adolescent boys should also be included, but the programme lacks this component therefore he would like to extend this existing programme to this section too.





### **Koushik Hore**

**Location: Kolkata, West Bengal**

Koushik Hore is empathetic, energetic and passionate individual. Having faced discrimination first hand as a result of his gender identity made him realize the exclusion faced by the LGBTQ community. The more he looked around he saw people suffering in silence or being victimized for their gender identity. These experiences crystallized his intentions to start an initiative that worked on LGBTQ issues. Queerlus (Queer Identity and Us) is a campaign that looks at breaking down gender stereotypes and minimizing gender based discrimination faced by the LGBTQ community in and around Kolkata. Queerlus seeks to create a space for dialogue on LGBTQ identity with youth. The initiative organises weekly youth addas on issues of gender identity and also undertakes campaigns in colleges to create cross border understanding on these issues. They are also trying to set up a network of queer friendly doctors who are open to listening and attending to health concerns of people from the Queer community by shedding their stereotypes.

### **Anjali Bin**

**Location: Kolkata, West Bengal**

Anjali has grown up in a family with 3 elder brothers. In a society where boys are given more chances to grow than girls, her passion for studying made her work to complete her higher education. She saw her mother work as a domestic help and at times even filled in for her. This experience inspired her to fulfil her dream. In her community gender based discrimination and gender-based violence is very common and this truly fuelled her commitment to work on this issue. Her initiative BRAVoV provides institutional services and action support to women and/girls who face gender based violence (GBV). BRAVoV provides help with filing FIRs, support with court cases and even medical support if needed. She works with youth from around Kolkata to create a team of anti GBV youth activists and create awareness through college and community outreach.



### **Bipuljit Basu**

**Location: Kolkata, West Bengal**

An MSW and diploma holder in social sciences, Bipuljit has a passion for writing and creating “dhun” (tune). He has written a book on gender and trafficking. Having spent 3 years in NGO sector, he got into social welfare department of Govt. of WB in 2009 and spent 3 years in tribal prevalent districts as welfare officer. This experience made a deeper impact on him. He started his production house called Binduboot in 2013. Binduboot is an initiative in which new Bengali songs are written and composed addressing ‘Socially and Emotionally Marginal’ people with an innovative approach. It aims to bring together music and the marginal communities together to build emotional connections, empathy and foster healthy relations with the rest of the community. The Binduboot team tries to create a space for the ‘others’ to be heard in the mainstream culture for new democratic possibilities.







**Aparna Sarder**

**Location: South 24 Parganas, West Bengal**

Aparna comes from a Schedule Caste background which created an urge in her to be a social change maker. She has completed her M.A. in local governance. She is running a sustainable development programme in Magrahat West Panchayat area with women belonging predominantly to Schedule Caste background to help them develop on economic grounds as well as make them a group of empowered individuals. She has identified fishery as an occupation, for this she is working with women within the age group of 23 to 35. Through this project she wants to address the patriarchal beliefs in the community and build faith in the fact that – “women can do anything.”

**Uma Singh**

**Location: Kolkata, West Bengal**

Master in Social Work from Netaji Subash Open University, Uma Singh's early life experiences installed first bricks of passion for social work. Uma Started Lake Gardens Nabadisha in 2009. She now works with the adolescents of a slum called Gobindapur in Kolkata, from where she hails, building consciousness about gender violence. It starts from creating an understanding, in adolescents, of their own selves. Under the Changelooms Within programme she is covering 5 nearby slums in Kolkata through her youth resource group. The Youth Resource Group comprises of 25 people that have come together in last 5 years to facilitate this process with the adolescents. The safe space hence created fosters peer mentoring and facilitation.



**Shahina Javed**

**Location: Kolkata, West Bengal**

Shahina Javed's own experiences of growing up to become less and less free, and the struggle to freedom, led her to found the Roshni Youth Group. The goal of Roshni Youth Group is to empower adolescents (especially muslim girls), help them break the stereotypes and cycle of domestic violence & gender discrimination, and take a positive step towards their future. Shahina is building capacities of 25 adolescents as peer leaders who are clear about their life goal and work with 150 adolescents from 6 small clusters in Rajabazar area of Kolkata. Roshni Youth Group functions as a youth-led Micro Enterprise offering products & services to the adolescents in the community, helping them sustain over a longer period of time.

**Manika Sarkar**

**Location: North Pargana, West Bengal**

Working against human trafficking especially child trafficking, Manika Sarkar, a survivor of human trafficking herself started her own initiative ACT (Against Child Trafficking). ACT is trafficked minor girls often belonging to economically weaker sections of the society, providing them an opportunity to live happily. Manika's project plans to eradicate the risk of unsafe migration due to gender based discrimination in the families through awareness and livelihood creation for both girls and boys. She does advocacy with police and BSF. She wants to create ACT groups in each block with all stake holders especially with youth. She has 20 such youth groups in place.





