

"Commutiny"
the youth collective



ComMutiny

the youth collective

**Annual
Report
2015-2016**

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Architecting 5th Spaces

One of our key strengths is to conceptualise and implement country wide programmes with collective members using 5th Space principles. These programmes enable young people to engage in deep refl-action and advocate for specific issues in a way that ensures youth participation in promoting democracy and social justice. Many of our programmes have been hailed as unique initiatives that have reached lakhs of people and received tremendous attention from media. These programmes although aimed at promoting youth leadership on the ground they are also aimed at co creating new and supporting existing institutions who engage with youth and are creating 5th spaces for youth across the country.

1.1 Changelooms:

Learning and Leadership Journey – an introduction

Changelooms is a 5th Space initiative that encourages the youth to dream of a society that is inclusive, just and equitable. The programme offers in-depth learning and leadership opportunities to young social activists, along with deep and personal mentoring, and guides them to become leaders of change in their community. The focus areas of growth and development of these leaders are around self, relationships, their organisations and strengthening the impact of their work in their communities.

The Changelooms programme was launched in 2005. It was a joint effort by Pravah in collaboration with Ashoka-Innovators for the public, with support from the Youth and Civil Society Initiative of Sir Ratan Tata Trust and Global Fund for Children. The programme offered in depth learning and leadership opportunities for young entrepreneurs along with deep personal mentoring.

Following the success of Change Looms, in 2008 CYC set up another leadership journey for youth who had an inspired social intervention idea, the passion and vision to commit to it, but were not yet ready to incubate organisations. This program gave youth leaders an opportunity to enhance their leadership for social change

by initiating creative social change experiments on the ground. This program was called ComMutiny Learning and Leadership Journey (LLJ).

Recognising the power and connectedness of both the above programs, in 2012, Pravah and CYC entered into a partnership to merge the two programs and launched the new Change Looms: Learning and Leadership Journey in order to support both, action projects and incubations.

The Changelooms: Learning & Leadership Journey offers to its co-voyagers support by: Encouraging, recognising and supporting the young change leaders who have started social change initiatives with a focus on youth development.

Offering opportunities to change makers for intensive personal and organisational development.

Supporting young change leaders through skills and learning to strengthen capacities as youth facilitators in core thematic areas, including systems thinking, perspectives on youth development, deep self-awareness, instructional design and facilitation, team-building, and exploring diversities through intensive peer-engagement.

Providing mentorship linkages to facilitate and support self and organisational development Offer modest financial assistance for starting their projects

1.2 Changelooms With.In

The Changelooms With.In programme was launched in partnership with UK government's Department for International Development's initiative Poorest Area Civil Society (PACS) programme and was a first-of-its-kind 10 months leadership journey with 100 passionate young changeloomers leading social action initiatives that address social inclusion in 6 states, including Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Delhi NCR. This campaign was launched in January 2014 and culminated in September 2015.

Changelooms With.in aimed to provide opportunities and direction to the tremendous

energy, passion and desire to bring positive change that the youth beholds. For many Changeloomers, the Changelooms With.In journey has been a tremendous opportunity to overcome their fear of failure and to demonstrate that they can make a difference through their ideas and projects. It has built their self-confidence and conviction that the path they have chosen is right. The focus on the 'self' has helped them to reflect on their strengths, values, aspirations and fears and to get in touch with themselves – as individuals and as leaders.

1.3 Changelooms: Learning and Leadership Journey – the North-East programme

The Changelooms Learning and Leadership Journey North East (CLLJ NE) was a special version of the Changelooms programme, especially designed for the North Eastern part of the nation. While in previous years, there had also been Changeloomers from the North Eastern states, this collaboration between Pravah, CYC and the Department of Development Studies, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD) brought the opportunity for us to be able to work exclusively with potential change leaders specifically in the north-east region of the country.

The programme has helped to address the

challenges that may have been unique to change leaders from the North East, and has created a natural hub of youth leaders from the region, with a common vision, value system, and approach to youth development work. They have found in each other friends, compatriots, and firm supporters. Moreover, the process is contributing to building positive environment for youth social entrepreneurship in North East India



1.4 Changelooms: unManifesto for Inclusion and Governance (mega phone of my space my unmanifesto _phase 2 project)

The My Space My unManifesto Programme was conducted in two phases by ComMutiny – The Youth Collective, supported by UNFPA. In phase-1 the programme was conducted in collaboration with 45 organizations across 20 States and 2 Union Territories. The process reached out to 1.2 Lakh youth on ground and 15 lakh online before culminating in April 2014. In phase-2 the programme was re-launched in a new format in October 2015 with 30 young leaders and 15 youth organizations across 8 states. The programme aimed to build capacities of young leaders to create sustained positive impact in their communities by engaging with policy makers (politicians/ ministers/bureaucrats/local leaders). This programme saw tremendous impact in the form of the initiation of 4 regional collectives across Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Delhi, and reached out to over 2000 people on ground and 50 public representatives across the four states. The programme was covered widely in multiple leading dailies across the country, such as Times of India, Telegraph, and the Hindustan Times.

1.5 Outreach & Impact

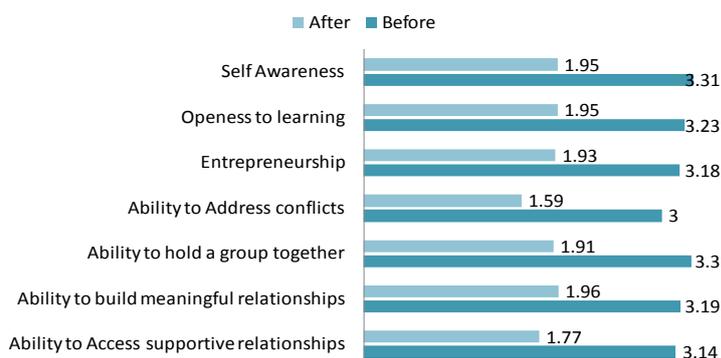
Over the past year, 120 youth leaders became a part of the Changelooms journey, working together with a group of over 30 organisations and over 100 social experiments. These Changeloomers directly engaged with over 10250 young people on-ground, and the programme saw an outreach of over 80,000 people through the journey.

At the heart of the programme, the Changelooms journey is not limited by the outreach numbers, but adopts a 'self to society' approach on assessing impact that engages deeply with the development of the individuals as well as the organisations who joined us in this journey. The impact measurement for the programme begins at the level of self, relating to the journey of the Changeloomers on an individual level – in their perception of self, their attitudes, skills and behaviours. By

extension, we then assess the impact on their organisations, communities, and finally the macro-level impact on the society. For the Changelooms With.In journey specifically, Impact assessment was done in three stages:

i) Illustrative changes at the level of self

In a sample size of 65 Changeloomers who took part in this assessment, we saw a significant shift in all parameters. On an average, while the baseline scores were between 1.59 – 1.95, the average end line scores measured in between 3-3.1. A detailed analysis is shown below



ii) Illustrative changes at the level of organisation

For the organisational-level impact assessment of the Changelooms With.In programme, the indicators that were identified were Clarity of vision, Shared ownership, Systems and processes, Team capacities, Partnership, Resource mobilization, and Stakeholder engagement.

Based on a sample size of 16 start-ups that participated in this process, the baseline scores were, on an average, between 1.8 - 3.19, while the end line shifted the scores within the 2.67 - 3.47 range.

iii) Illustrative changes at level of community outreach

At the outreach level, we found that the Changeloomers made a significant individual and collective impact at all levels. On a preliminary overview, we found that the total intensive outreach (which includes sustained engagement with various individuals) added up to 21,363 people, whereas the overall combined outreach extended to well over 80,000 people.

5th Space public engagement journeys



India is witnessing a demographic transition. It is home to one of the largest and fastest-growing young population in the world. 65% of India's population is under 35 years of age. In a society as complex and diverse as India, the challenge is to ensure that this huge segment of our population becomes a vibrant, constructive force that can address social issues and create a more just, equitable and peaceful world. They have enough potential to change the current scenario and make this society an inclusive one to live in. We at ComMutiny, strongly felt that a space was needed to be created where young people could come together to explore their identities and also explore and understand others from different backgrounds, and interact and listen beyond labels and stereotypes.

SamjhoToh Express

The SamjhoToh Express journey aimed at cultivating cross border (across religion, caste, class, gender, region etc.) friendships through an experiential journey helped the youth in reflecting on and breaking the stereotypes that they hold for the 'others' (someone from different community, gender, caste, religion, ethnic background etc.)

The SamjhoToh journey is supported by Misereor and Oxfam.

Through a collaborative effort of 21 partners across 14 states over the course of the past year, the journey directly engaged with approximately 200 young people from diverse

backgrounds over the course of the journey, and a total of over 3000 young people who participated, volunteered and interacted with and joined the SamjhoToh journey directly through 80 common action days. Through strategically placed metro ads as well targeted online outreach, the SamjhoToh Journey reached out to a staggering approximate of 23 lac people over the past year. Additionally, ads were placed on 100 auto-rickshaws across Lucknow which amplified the outreach even further.

Though it may be too early to claim any sustainable structural change in the external environment, the SamjhoToh Express journey has been successful in amplifying youth voices for social inclusion and gender justice since its initiation. At a time when there is a lot of discussion on inclusion/exclusion, the SamjhoToh journey has provided a safe space for young people to understand their own stereotypes, challenge them, build a deeper understanding of the "other", and openly dialogue about what they think.

There have been many inspiring stories and instances of cross-border friendships which emerged out of the SamjhoToh Express journey. These stories have not only made people think and believe in the viability of platforms like SamjhoToh but have also filled our partners and us with more energy to carry on our work in this regard.

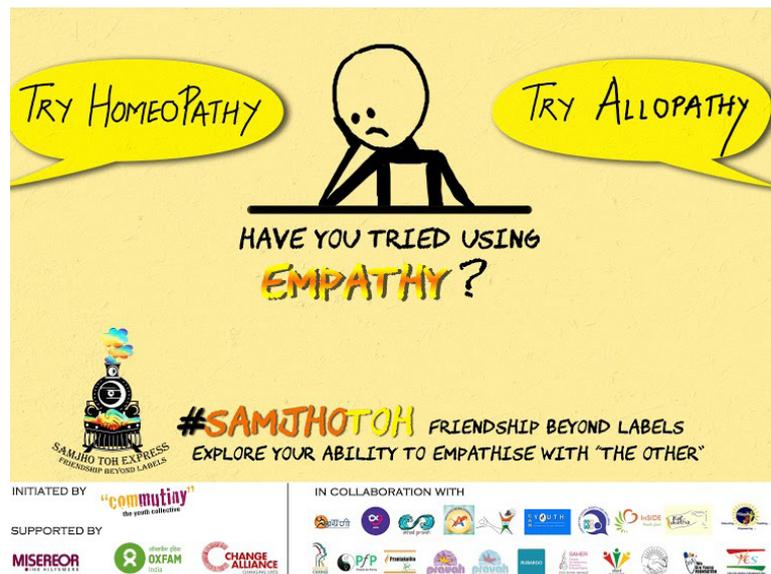
Stories from the field

Anando and Nilarko

KokattaOne example of a powerful story coming out of the SamjhoToh journey is the story of Anando and Nilarko. They boarded this express in Kolkata (hosted by Prantakatha). Anando, a dwarf, is from Kolkata. His mother works with an NGO. Anando was under the impression that he was very inclusive, and that he could talk to anyone very easily. On his journey, he bonded with Nilarko, who identifies as transgender. He thought it would be easy, but he soon realized it wasn't. He didn't know how to start the conversation, or how to even address Nilarko. It was only once they got a chance to speak, to interact and get to know each other that Anando went through a transformation. The hesitations, reservations and stereotypes that they each had about the other person broke down as they got to know each other. Today they both are really good friends and spend quality time together.

Zoya and Rajvi - Ahmedabad

“When I entered Zoya’s place, I was greeted with ‘Namaste’ even though they were a Muslim family. Her family made all efforts to make me comfortable. Religion also seemed to be a bonding agent in our friendship as we discovered that both our religions had similarities which made it easy to understand and connect with each other.” – Rajvi “I was hesitant at first regarding this journey but the welcoming behaviour of Rajvi made me quite comfortable. It was my first time when I visited the Gurudwara and my first reaction was that I told Rajvi that I felt like I was in a Dargah and she replied to me that they were similar. I learnt a lot about her religion and imparted knowledge about mine as well.” – Zoya Rajvi, a Sikh college-going girl comes from a very cultured and middleclass family whereas Zoya is a school going girl who belongs to the religion of Islam and comes from a rather lower middleclass family. Despite the differences of their belief systems, they found it even easier to connect as they explored each other in depth as well as their religion. They both mentioned that exploring each others’ religions was an enhancing factor in their relationship.



5th Space Media

At ComMutiny, we strive to consistently create media products and adopt dissemination strategies that will further the agenda of youth development for the sake of the youth. The idea is to put young people at the centre and plan around them, as opposed to thinking of young people as “agents” of change channels to a predetermined destination. When working with young people, one needs to centre-stage their growth and learning as well and share with the world how that learning happens and what actions and enterprises young people lead and how that happens as well. The ComMutiny Media Network specialises in engaging in creating multiple media products to that end and takes responsibility to disseminate these to various platforms. A brief description of the media products created and promotional activities in 2015-16 is given below

Audio visual products

Film title:

i. 5th Space kividhi – Recipe of making friends

Concept and Produced by:
ComMutiny – the Youth Collective
Directed by: Nitin Das

Co-scripted by: Nitin Das and
ComMutiny – the Youth Collective

The recent commotion around the idea of identity and the attempt to compartmentalize oneself in staunch beliefs, forces us to question the norms of the society we live in. Alfa Educational Society in Rajasthan has gone beyond all such boundaries of caste & creed by creating an all-inclusive space, a 5th Space in their community, setting an example of communal harmony for all of us.

ii. Film title: Khottalshq – What is the sex of love?

Produced by: PACS (UK AID), and ComMutiny – the Youth Collective

Directed by: Nitin Das

Co-scripted by: Nitin Das and ComMutiny – the Youth Collective

From how to live to whom to love and live with; discrimination on the basis of status, caste, sexuality, region, and faith is an everyday reality here. Is a son’s love and respect for a father, brothers, friends and relatives more or less homosexual, thus ‘abnormal’ and ‘unnatural’ than love for another man?

iii. Film title: Tarraki Ka Ladoo

Produced by: PACS(UK AID), and ComMutiny – the Youth Collective

Directed by: Nitin Das

Co-scripted by: Nitin Das and ComMutiny – the Youth Collective

We need to remember that there is a dual aspect to independence, i.e., the independence to treat and be treated fairly. Unless we are free from our biases, we are not independent beings as our choices and relations will remain restricted by our very own prejudices



5th Space Bioscope

A Grassroots Filmmaking Initiative

To bring forth the radically different youth centric perspectives of the 5th Space, we organised film screenings and discussions for young media professionals, where they were able to articulate and share their understanding of 5th Space. Through these screenings and presentations at various National & International platforms we were able to create listening spaces for budding filmmakers, youth facilitators, practitioners, civil society members and encouraged them to make films, and partner with us to advocate for more

such spaces which celebrates stories of youth leadership and change.

So far we have conducted seven screenings and workshops and reached out to a total of 700 media students and young people who are learning filmmaking.

We collaborated and completed 5th Space screenings and workshops with various Universities, Institutions and Organizations across India who are encouraging and empowering youth with filmmaking skills. These were

- i. University School of Mass Communication – Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University
- ii. Lady Irwin College – Delhi University
- iii. Noida International University
- iv. Protsahan: a dynamic NGO working with children in Delhi
- v. YuvaVarsham, International Youth Summit organized by Kerala State Youth Welfare Board, Department of Youth Affairs, Government of Kerala & RGNIYD
- vi Bosco Institute, Jorhat, Assam
- vii. 2nd National Seminar on Youth Development organised by RGNIYD, Sriperumbudur. Tamil Nadu

We also launched and announced a student production film contest. Bioscope was a nationwide short-film contest based on the theme 'friendship beyond borders'. As part of the contest we received 17 entries, out of which two standalone winners as well as two joint winners were selected.

List of winners

Tum Log – by Tasha and Nandan – Fiction

Cross – by Samir Zaidi – Fiction

Joint Winners

Open To All – by Riju Banerjee - Fiction
Koto Andhar Ghore Baire (Darkness in and around) – by Bipuljit Basu - Music Video

Breaking walls

Creating empowering 5th Spaces - a grassroots media festival

In order to take our compendium of films further in a systematic fashion, Media Festivals were organised with forum partners. The Media Festivals were positioned as visibility and advocacy events for the 5th Space concept. This series of Media Fests was called 'Breaking Walls: Creating Empowering 5th Spaces – A Grassroots Media Festival'. The overarching theme for the film festival was using 5th space principles to facilitate social inclusion. These events were 5th Space in themselves as these gave opportunities to volunteers of the organisation to organize the entire event in their cities and lead it. This also created space for them to break boundaries and engage in cross-border friendship (across caste, class, religion, gender etc.), have fun and learn by exploring and questioning their identities. Seven partners conducted small events in their cities, namely: Sauhard (Ahmedabad), YES Foundation (Lucknow), Pravah Jaipur Initiative (Jaipur), People for Parity (Alwar), Synergy Sansthan (Harda), Rubaroo (Hyderabad), and ALFA (Udaipur). 900 young people were reached through these events and more than 50% of the audience were introduced to the



concept of 5th Space for the first time. One of our partners and a CYC forum member, Sauhard based in Ahmedabad, produced a film on inter-regional marriages titled 'Beyond Boundaries', which was also taken forward through this festival.

Events and Conferences

Yuva Varsham - International Youth Summit held on 27th-29th January 2016 was organized by Kerala State Youth Welfare Board (KSYWB), Department of Youth Affairs, Government of Kerala, India and Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD). It was a platform provided to various stakeholders to deliberate on the dimensions, dynamics and challenges of youth development. It captured youth voices with thrust on the needs, concerns, issues and problems and priorities of youth. ComMutiny – The Youth Collective and our Forum member, Prantakatha from West Bengal presented papers in the conference - 'SAMJHO TOH EXPRESS' and 'Youth as an Identity: Looking at the intersectionality of different rights based movement'. Apart from this we also curated a '5th SPACE FILM FESTIVAL' in which we showcased films around the principles

of 5th Space and stories of Inside-Out Youth Leadership. The conference was attended by 150 participants and Dr. Shashi Tharoor, MP, Lok Sabha from Kerala gave the key note address. Apart from presenting papers, we also supported in creating a youth charter capturing demands of young people and hence was an extension on our campaign My Sp-ace My unManifesto 2014-2015.

2nd Annual National Seminar on Youth Development held on 30th-31st March 2016 was organized by Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu. In this seminar we screened 5th space films and presented four papers – 'Applying open source knowledge frameworks to enhance service learning', 'SamjhoToh Express', 'The role of CYC in strengthening youth work in India' and 'Community led social platform for collective learning and knowledge sharing'. All these papers were presented as part of CYC Collective in one panel which was around Practitioner's perspective for youth development in India. The seminar was attended by 175 participants ranging from students, teachers, practitioners, researchers & social entrepreneurs



Awards and Accolades

The year 2015-16 has been an exciting year for ComMutiny in terms of our programmes as well as the media products we have been involved with, and it is always great to see our work getting noticed and making an impact. We want to share with you some of the highlights in this aspect over the past few years:

- i. Achievers Award for 'Communication for Impact' for contribution & commitment towards creating real & lasting impact. Organised by PVR NEST in association with Show of Force, Frame Her Right, Safetipin and UN Women (awarded to Ashraf Patel for ComMutiny – the Youth Collective and Pravah).
- ii. Social Entrepreneur of the Year 2015: Finalist: Organised by The Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, a sister organization of the World Economic Forum, in partnership with the Jubilant Bhartia Foundation (awarded to Ashraf Patel for ComMutiny – the Youth Collective and Pravah).
- iii. Global CSR Excellence & Leadership Awards: Listed among the 50 Most Impactful Social Innovators, organised by World CSR Congress (awarded to Ashraf Patel for ComMutiny – the Youth Collective and Pravah).
- iv. Awards for films

Film title: Class of Rowdies

Concept and Produced by: ComMutiny – the Youth Collective

Directed by: Nitin Das :First Place, Narrative Category:My Hero International Film Festival; Special Mention, Jury: Indian Cine Film Festival 2015; Special Mention, Jury:Non-competitive section "Children's World", 19th International Children's Film Festival India

Film title: Trikon Khidki Wala School

Concept and Produced by: ComMutiny – the Youth Collective

Directed by: Kavita Das Gupta; Screened at:Indian Cine Film Festival, 2015 (Special Mention at the 3rd Bangalore Shorts Film Festival, 2014)

Film title:18 Till I Die

Concept and Produced by: ComMutiny – the Youth Collective

Co-scripted by: Arjun Shekhar (Board member, ComMutiny), NeerajToor

Directed by: NeerajToor; Screened at: Indian Cine Film Festival, 2015 (Youth Spirit Award winning film, Indo Russian Festival of Short Documentaries Movies, Youth Spirit 2013)



Acknowledgements and Appreciations

We would like to thank all the individuals/organizations who have helped us in creating and amplifying empowering 5th spaces and thereby making this previous year worth mentioning

THE ComMutiny TEAM

The Executive Team

- Ashraf - Convener
- Lokasish - Program Director
- Remya - Senior Coordinator – Media & visibility
- Sharon - Executive Director
- Aparna - Project Coordinator
- Saudamini - Project Coordinator
- Ramneek – Program Coordinator
- Ashtha – Associate Coordinator
- Harvinder - Associate Coordinator
- Rajesh - Bus Coordinator
- Khateeb - Accounts Head
- Pushkar - Finance Coordinator
- Kashif - Associate Coordinator
- Musheer - Associate Coordinator
- Arunima - Associate Coordinator
- Arzan - Associate Coordinator
- Suchitra - Admin & Accounts Assistant
- Kanika – Changelooms North East Lead Associate

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- Ashraf Patel
- Meenu Venkateswaran
- Dr. Ram Narayan Syag
- Ravi Gulati
- Durba Ghose
- Vartika Jaini
- Rustam Vania
- Fr. Jerry
- Nirupama Sarathy
- Rama Vedula
- Vinod Sreedhar
- Dhirendra Pratap Singh
- Bidhan Chandra Singh

ComMutiny seed members

- Bappaditya (Prantakatha)
- Zeeshan (Yes foundation)
- Ajay (Synergy Sansthan)
- Indrajit (Way Foundation)
- Geetanjali (Katkatha)
- Gautam (Deeksha foundation)

CYC Forum Members

- Agrini
- ALFA
- Anhad Pravah
- Bosco Institute
- Bharat Calling
- Blue Ribbon Movement
- CAN Youth
- Diksha Foundation
- Inside - North East
- Kaivalya Education Foundation
- Kat-Katha
- Manzil
- Milaan
- Prantakatha
- Pravah
- Pravah Jaipur Initiative
- Reap Benefit
- Rubaroo
- SAHER
- Sauhard
- Synergy Sansthan
- YES Foundation
- Youth Alliance
- Audacious Dreams
- CSEI
- People for Change
- People for Parity
- Vayali
- We are Young Foundation
- Ritesh Films

OUR PROGRAM PARTNERS

Samjho Toh Express

- Agrini
- ALFA
- Anhad Pravah
- Audacious Dreams
- Bharat Calling
- CAN Youth (changelooms)
- CSEI
- Inside North East
- Kat-Katha
- Milaan
- People for Change
- People for Parity
- Prantakatha
- Pravah
- Pravah Jaipur Initiative
- Rubaroo
- Saher
- Sauhard
- Synergy Sansthan
- We are Young Foundation
- YES Foundation

Changeloomswith.in partners

- Youth Alliance
- Yes foundation
- Prantakatha
- Deeksha foundation
- Synergy sansthan
- Pravah

Changelooms Learning and Leadership Journey- the North- east Programme

- Don Bosco Institute
- Deep Jyoti, Farm to Food
- Jenpu – CAN Youth

Changelooms: unManifesto for Inclusion and Governance

- Bharat Calling
- Pravah
- Pravah Jaipur
- Agrini
- Alfa
- We Are Young Foundation
- Youth Alliance
- People for Parity
- Yeh Ek soch Foundation
- Milaan
- People for Change
- Prantakatha
- Katkatha

- Synergy Sansthan
- Sauhard
- Audacious Dreams Foundation

Online Media and Creative Partners

- Wishbox studio
- Youth Ki Awaaz
- The Optimist Citizen
- The Logical Indian

Resource organisations in the current year

- DFID - PACS
- DKA Austria
- Drishti Human Resource Centre
- Ipartner / Puneet Malhi Trust
- India Development Service
- Misereor
- Oxfam India
- Pravah
- RGNIYD
- UNFPA
- UNNITI

All previous organisations that have been part of ComMutiny support network

- Aajeevika
- B2R
- DKA Austria
- DFID - PACS
- Ipartner / Puneet Malhi Trust
- India Development Service
- JAGORI
- Oxfam India
- Pravah
- Sir Rata Tata Trust
- UNDP (P4P)
- UNFPA
- UNIFEM
- UNNITI

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